

# Preventing infective endocarditis



This patient is at risk of infective endocarditis.

**Name**

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**NHS #**

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**Heart condition**

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**Valve type**

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(if applicable)

**Implant date**

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(if applicable)

Given to the patient by

**Dr**

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**Hospital**

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**Contact**

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After discussion with their cardiac specialist  
this patient is classified as **higher risk** of  
endocarditis and has decided to:

**Take antibiotic prophylaxis**

**Not take antibiotic prophylaxis**

Please carry this card with you and  
show it to your doctor or dentist  
**BEFORE** treatment is started.

## For your healthcare professional

**Dental work** where antibiotic prophylaxis should be considered in **higher risk patients** includes:

- Extractions
- Subgingival scaling
- All procedures that involve manipulation of the gingival tissue or the periapical region of teeth or perforation of the oral mucosa.

For patients who have not received a penicillin or cephalosporin-group antibiotic in the past four weeks:

Amoxicillin 3g orally (child 50mg/kg up to 3g); orally, 1 hour before the procedure.

For patients who have a penicillin allergy or who have taken a penicillin or cephalosporin-group antibiotic more than once in the past four weeks: Clindamycin 600mg (child – 20mg/kg up to 600mg); orally, 1 hour before the procedure.

## Risk groups for endocarditis

### Higher risk

- Previously had infective endocarditis
- Heart valve replacement or repair
- Unrepaired cyanotic congenital heart disease or residual shunt

### Moderate risk

- Un-operated heart valve disease (a leaking or narrowed heart valve)
- Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

### Reducing your risk

- Maintain good oral hygiene (teeth and gums) and have regular check-ups with your dentist
- Avoid body piercing or tattooing
- Don't inject recreational drugs

## Recognising endocarditis

The symptoms of endocarditis are often very vague.

If you are at risk of getting endocarditis and have flu-like symptoms (fever, sweats or chills) that are severe or last longer than a week, you should seek medical attention from your GP urgently and **bring this card**.

**For GPs: Always obtain blood cultures BEFORE starting antibiotics** in patients with possible endocarditis.



NHS

South London

Cardiac Operational Delivery Network



British Heart  
Valve Society