

For Our Pre-Medications Patients

Pre-Medications

You have reported a history of Rheumatic Fever, a heart disorder, prosthetic replacement, or other medical problems that requires special attention when having dental treatment. Good medical practice dictates that you pre-medicate with antibiotics for any appointment that may possibly cause a bacteremia.

What is a Bacteria?

Bacteremia means there is bacteria in the bloodstream. Many types and large amounts of bacteria are always present in the mouth. During your treatment in our office, some bacteria may be passed into the bloodstream and then on to the heart, kidneys, etc. The introduction of this bacteremia may be harmful to your heart.

What can be done about this?

The solution to this problem lies in what is called antibiotic pre-mediation. By taking antibiotics prior to treatment, the antibiotics are available in the bloodstream to kill the bacteria as they are introduced. We follow the American Heart Association recommendations that are:

- **4** (four) capsules of Amoxicillin (500 milligrams each), **one hour** prior to your appointment.
Or if you are **allergic** to Penicillin/Amoxicillin:
- **4** (four) capsules of Clindamycin (150 milligrams each) **one hour** prior to you appointment.

IMPORTANT!!

It is **YOUR** responsibility to begin the first does of antibiotic as needed. If you have not taken your medication for an appointment, which requires pre-meciations, we will be unable to treat you. Please help us avoid canceling the appointment by **taking the medication as prescribed.**

TO AVOID STOMACH UPSET: Those patients taking Amoxicillin should take it following a light snack. Those patients taking Clindamycin should take it following a full meal.

Please note: The effectiveness of birth control pills may be reduced while taking this medication. Alternative forms of birth control should be used for at least one month.