

ATTENTION: PREMED PATIENTS

Updated recommendations from the American Dental Association regarding new premed guidelines

ANTIBIOTIC PROPHYLAXIS NOT INDICATED FOR MOST PATIENTS WITH PROSTHETIC JOINTS

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons: *Prevention of Orthopedic Implant Infection in Patients Undergoing Dental Procedures Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)*, Approved by the AAOS Board of Directors June 6, 2025 (based on the 2024 AAOS Clinical Practice Guideline and consistent with the 2015 ADA Clinical Practice Guideline)



What This Means for Dentists

For most patients with prosthetic hip or knee replacements, routine antibiotic prophylaxis before dental procedures is **not recommended**. Consider physician consultation and individualized decision making in select high-risk situations such as being immunocompromised or previous prosthetic joint infection.

Clinical Decision Tool

Download the **AAOS Orthoguidelines App** to your phone. Under Appropriate Use Criteria, look under "Management of Patients with Orthopedic Implants Undergoing Dental Procedures." This will require answering **two clinical questions** and provides a graded recommendation: (1) non-invasive or invasive procedure and (2) host systemic status: immunocompetent or immunocompromised.

Since most dental procedures are considered invasive, a patient indication from the AAOS includes:

Patient Indications	Treatment	Appropriateness
Scenario: Invasive. Dental procedures that involve manipulation of gingival tissue or the periapical region of teeth or perforation of the oral mucosa. <i>Immunocompetent.</i>	Prescribe patient-appropriate antibiotics	Rarely appropriate
	Do not prescribe antibiotics	Appropriate

This replaces automatic, fear-based protocols with individualized, evidence-based care.

CR Conclusions

- **Routine premedication is not recommended** for most prosthetic joint implant patients undergoing dental treatment.
- Use the AAOS AUC to guide patient-specific decisions and **document appropriately**. If the orthopedic surgeon insists on premedication, **let them write the prescription**.
- **Shared decision making:** Decisions should be made between the patient, dentist, and orthopedic surgeon.