

WAIT!

Don't have your antibiotic prescription filled yet!

Your dentist believes that your dental pain and swelling may get better without antibiotics.

Waiting to see if you really need an antibiotic can help you take antibiotics ONLY when needed.

R_x

If you feel better and your pain is improving, you do NOT need to fill the antibiotic prescription.

If you do not feel better in _____ days, get your prescription filled.

If you fill your antibiotic prescription, you should STOP taking it 24 hours after your pain gets better. Contact your primary care provider if you have diarrhea with 3 or more loose stools/day.

Contact your dentist at _____ if:

- Your pain and swelling get worse
- Your pain and swelling do NOT improve in 2-3 days
- You have any questions about these instructions

You should not save any unused medicines.

For directions on disposing unused medicines, visit:
<https://www.michigan.gov/deqdrugdisposal>.

Managing Your Pain

Follow your dentist’s recommendations to help your pain and swelling feel better without antibiotics. If your dentist was not able to perform dental treatment (such as a root canal or drainage of abscess), then it is very important that you have this treatment performed as soon as possible.

Waiting to see if you really need an antibiotic can help you take antibiotics ONLY when needed. When your dental pain is unlikely to be caused by a bacterial infection, antibiotics won’t help you and the side effects may hurt you. The best way to manage your condition is to have the dental procedure

Follow your dentist’s instructions for managing your pain:

<u>Pain Level</u>	<u>Pain Medicine</u>
Mild to Moderate	Ibuprofen 400-600 mg every 6 hours for 24 hours then ibuprofen 400 mg as needed for pain every 4 to 6 hours
Moderate to Severe	Ibuprofen 400-600 mg plus acetaminophen 500 mg every 6 for 24 hours then ibuprofen 400 mg plus acetaminophen 500 mg as needed for pain every 6 hours

- Opioid medications (Tylenol #3, Vicodin, Norco, Percocet) are not generally recommended as they usually don’t treat dental pain well. Opioids have more side effects, including the potential for addiction.
- For the first day, take your pain medicine every 6 hours, then take only as needed.
- Keep track of your pain over the next 2-3 days. Keeping track of your pain level will help your dentist to determine the need for antibiotics, additional pain medication or dental treatment.