

Statement from the Surrey Heart and Stroke Network regarding NICE Clinical Guidance 64 Prophylactic Antibiotics in Infective Endocarditis for Primary Care

The Surrey Heart and Stroke Network support the recommendations of a NICE clinical governance 64 – prophylactic antibiotics in infective endocarditis.

The use of prophylactic antibiotics in adults and children at risk of infective endocarditis undergoing dental or other invasive procedures is no longer recommended.

However, clinicians, following discussions with individual “high-risk” patients, may decide that failure to prescribe prophylactic antibiotics may be detrimental to that patients care. In these circumstances the decision to prescribe antibiotic prophylaxis for infective endocarditis must be clearly communicated to the dental surgeon or clinician performing the invasive procedure. Further, arrangements for the prescription and administration for these antibiotics will have to be made.

September 9th 2009
Surrey Heart & Stroke Network

ADDENDUM – 18th March 2011

This policy was brought for review to the Cardiac Clinical Reference Group on the 18th March 2011 by Karine Nash, Pharmacist with NHS Surrey, stating that further clarity regarding ‘high-risk’ groups was required by GPs in primary care so that they could more clearly advise their patients.

It was agreed by the CRG that the following constitute ‘high-risk’ groups:

- Previous infective endocarditis
- Prosthetic valve
- Acquired valvular heart disease with more than mild stenosis or regurgitation
- Unrepaired or incompletely repaired cyanotic congenital heart disease
- Congenital heart disease repaired with prosthetic material (for 6 months after procedure)
- Valve disease in recipients of a cardiac transplant

It was also agreed by the CRG that the following constitute the full range of dental procedures:

- Dental procedures involving dento-gingival manipulation or endodontics
 - dental extractions
 - sub-gingival scaling
 - placement of restorations in relation to the gingival mucosa

Dental Prescribers: The NHS Surrey Dental Advisors would recommend that, where a dentist receives a request from a cardiologist for antibiotic prophylaxis for a patient that is not supported by current NICE guidance, s/he should request that the cardiologist accepts the clinical responsibility and makes arrangements for issuing a prescription.

This revised statement will be sent to all GPs and dentists in Surrey for implementation on receipt and it will be reviewed by the Cardiac Clinical Reference Group in November 2012.