

Antibiotic Prophylactic Coverage for Total Joint Replacement

In 2012, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Dental Association (ADA) released a joint evidence-based guideline and evidence report on [“Prevention of Orthopaedic Implant Infection in Patients Undergoing Dental Procedures.”](#) A [shared decision making \(SDM\) tool](#) was released in conjunction with this clinical practice guideline (CPG). The SDM tool may be utilized as a tool for collaborative decision making between the provider and patient regarding antibiotic prophylactic coverage. This tool does not replace informed consent procedures, but may aid in discussing the risks, alternatives, and questions regarding antibiotic prophylactic coverage for total joint replacement.

In 2014, the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs convened a panel to develop a new CPG. In January 2015, ADA issued [“The use of prophylactic antibiotics prior to dental procedures in patients with prosthetic joints.”](#) The AAOS has not endorsed or commented on the ADA’s revision, and has not released a new guideline since the 2012 CPG.

Informed by literature assessed in the 2012 AAOS-ADA and 2015 ADA CPGs, AAOS and ADA Council on Scientific Affairs developed [“Appropriate Use Criteria on Management of Patients with Orthopaedic Implants Undergoing Dental Procedures”](#). This Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) provides treatment recommendations on a patient-specific level and is meant to be used along with clinician expertise and experience. In 2016, the AUC was both adopted by AAOS and approved by ADA Council of Scientific Affairs. The full AUC in addition to an intuitive, user-friendly version is available at <https://www.aaos.org/dentalprocedures/>.