



## Antibiotics and dental problems

Here at Sunbury Community Health, we aim to improve the appropriate use of antibiotics and help reduce antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic resistance is becoming an ongoing problem in Australia. The over-prescription of antibiotics has played a role in the development of antibiotic resistance, therefore allowing some infections to have a higher frequency and longer lasting effects.

Whilst antibiotics remain the foundation treatment for infectious diseases, antibiotics are not always the most effective treatment method for dental pain.

After careful examination, including a discussion of your medical history, your dentist will diagnose the most effective method of treating your problem.

The majority of infections that present in the dental clinic need an active dental treatment to remove the source of infection and this is usually the most effective method.

If your dentist decides that an antibiotic is needed, then there are specific guidelines that have been developed for antibiotic use in a dental setting. These guidelines indicate the best antibiotic, the correct dose and the duration it should be taken for.

There are a few medical conditions that require an antibiotic to be taken as a protective cover before any dental treatment can be done. There are also specific guidelines that have been developed for these situations.

Your dental professional may occasionally prescribe an alternative medication for dental pain or a topical treatment for the problem. Sometimes a delayed prescription may be issued, where the antibiotics are to be taken only if the condition deteriorates.

Please discuss your condition with your dental professional if you have any concerns about antibiotic medications.

