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Antibiotic Premedication for Heart Patients

There is a recent update (2007) from the American Heart Association concerning the use of antibiotics to premedicate patients with specific heart conditions. These guidelines are dramatically different from the previous regimen.

Now there are only four heart conditions that warrant antibiotic prophylaxis:

1. Prosthetic heart valves
2. Previous infective endocarditis (a heart infection)
3. Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), which includes shunts, conduits, and for the first six months after placement of any prosthetic material or device
4. Heart transplants.

Note : Mitral Valve Prolapse (MVP) is no longer on the list for antibiotic premedication.

The antibiotic type and dose remain the same for those patients who are required to take them.

Please discuss these new guidelines with your physician or cardiologist and request a fax with their recommendations for us to 770.381.6310. Artificial joints and prostheses were not addressed in the 2007 guidelines, so we will follow the advice of your orthopedic surgeon or physician.

Thank you for your cooperation.