Dentists are uniquely positioned to play a role in preventing the spread of antibiotic resistance. Here are seven simple “how-tos” for safe, appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use when treating dental infections.

1. **MAKE** an accurate diagnosis.

2. When prescribing an antibiotic, **CHOOSE** the right drug for the right dose and duration.

3. **USE** narrow-spectrum antibiotics for simple infections and preserve broad-spectrum drugs for more complex infections.

4. **AVOID** prescribing antibiotics for viral infections.

5. For empiric treatment, **REVISE** treatment regimen based on patient progress and/or test results.

6. **KNOW** the side effects and drug interactions of an antibiotic before prescribing.

7. **TEACH** your patients about appropriate antibiotic use and emphasize the importance of taking antibiotics exactly as prescribed.

[www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use)