

# Best Practices for Prescribing Antibiotics

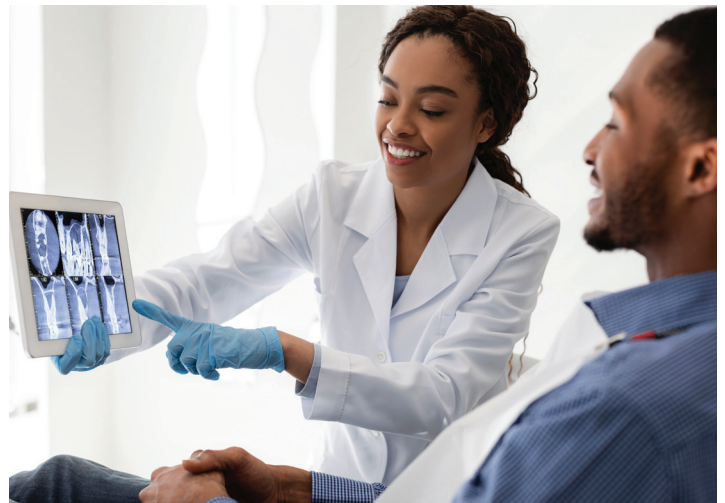
EmblemHealth is committed to supporting high-quality, evidence-based care for all members. This includes ensuring that our network providers are aware of best practices for prescribing antibiotics for our members.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 30% of outpatient antibiotic prescriptions in the United States are unnecessary, with dental providers accounting for [approximately 10%](#) of antibiotic prescriptions. As a regional insurance provider for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), we support thousands of FEDVIP dental members across our area.

**To support appropriate antibiotic use, we offer the following guidance to our dental providers:**

- Avoid prescribing antibiotics for routine dental procedures where local treatment is sufficient (e.g., simple extractions or uncomplicated pulpitis).
- Follow the American [Dental Association \(ADA\)](#) and the [CDC](#) recommendations for antibiotic stewardship.
- Prescribe antibiotics only when systemic signs of infection are present, or when medically necessary due to comorbidities or risk factors.

As part of our quality improvement program, we may reach out to our dentists to provide educational resources or individualized feedback, as appropriate.



For the most recent information and guidance on regulatory, policy, and accreditation requirements, read our [Online Provider Manual](#), and visit [emblemhealth.com/providers](https://emblemhealth.com/providers) for additional provider resources and information.