

## Preventing Infection After Breast Implant

### *Precautions to take*

*This handout explains important precautions to take after breast implant.*

### Special Precautions for 3 Months

For 3 months after your breast implant surgery, do **not** have:

- Dental work that is *elective* (not urgent)
- Any procedures that involve your:
  - **Respiratory system:** airway or lungs
  - **Digestive system:** *esophagus* (the tube food goes down), stomach, or intestines
  - **Urinary tract:** bladder, kidneys, or the tubes urine goes through

But, if you need an emergency procedure or a procedure to treat an infection, we can prescribe antibiotics for you to take before the procedure.

### Getting a Prescription for a Procedure

If you had an implant placed within the past 12 months, and you need a procedure:

- Call our clinic at 206.598.1217.
- Ask us to send a prescription for antibiotics to your pharmacy.

### If You Also Had Radiation Therapy

#### Dental Work

If you had radiation therapy, we advise you to take antibiotics before dental work **for the rest of your life**. This includes all dental work, even routine teeth cleaning. Our clinic, your PCP, or your dentist can prescribe the antibiotics.

- If you are **not** allergic to penicillin: Take 2 grams of amoxicillin or cephalexin by mouth **1 hour before** having dental work done.



*If you had radiation therapy, follow these precautions for the rest of your life.*

- If you **are** allergic to penicillin: Take 500 mg of azithromycin or 600 mg of clindamycin by mouth **1 hour before** having dental work done.

## High-Risk Procedures

If you had radiation therapy, you must take antibiotics before having any of the procedures listed below. These procedures can more easily allow bacteria to enter your bloodstream and cause infections.

Take antibiotics **before** these procedures for the rest of your life:

- **Respiratory tract procedures:**
  - Bronchoscopy with a rigid bronchoscope
- **Gastrointestinal (digestive) tract procedures:**
  - Sclerotherapy for esophageal varices
  - Esophageal stricture dilation
  - Endoscopic retrograde cholangiography with biliary obstruction
  - Colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy
- **Genital and urinary tract procedures:**
  - Urethral dilation

## If Your Provider Has Questions

If your surgeon, primary care provider, or dentist has any questions about *prophylactic* antibiotics (medicines given **before** a procedure), please ask them to call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC): 206.598.1217, option 2.

### Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call the Center for Reconstructive Surgery at 206.598.1217, and press 2.

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call 206.598.6190 and ask to page the resident on call for your surgeon.