



Pharmacist's Letter Resources Help Simplify New AHA Infective Endocarditis Guidelines

May 25, 2007 – STOCKTON, CA – For decades, patients, prescribers, and dentists have grown accustomed to patients with certain heart conditions using a short course of antibiotics before dental procedures to prevent infective, or bacterial, endocarditis. This infection of the heart's valves and lining was thought to be caused by bacteria that were released from the mouth into blood circulation during routine dental procedures.

But new guidelines on preventing infective endocarditis from the American Heart Association are changing practice. Experts now understand that only a small number of patients actually benefit from taking antibiotics to prevent endocarditis. With infections from antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria on the rise, health professionals are striving to steer clear of antibiotics when they are ineffective, saving them for only when they are necessary. The key is knowing which patients will benefit from antibiotics, and when it's better to hold off. This can be difficult, especially when patients have grown used to receiving antibiotics before certain procedures.

Pharmacist's Letter, an evidence-based resource on current drug information, is doing its part to help pharmacists counsel patients and answer prescribers' questions about the new American Heart Association recommendations to use preventive antibiotics in *fewer* patients. *Pharmacist's Letter* has created resources to help patients and health care professionals quickly understand and easily translate these guidelines into clinical practice.

Pharmacist's Letter offers pharmacists a succinct synopsis of the research behind the new recommendations and a quick-reference chart, focusing on what busy practitioners need to know today. *Pharmacist's Letter* also provides pharmacists with an easy-to-understand one-page handout for patients. This provides reassurance to patients who will no longer need antibiotics for routine dental procedures.

These resources are available online at www.pharmacistsletter.com/pl/sample.aspx.

Pharmacist's Letter is a subscription service for pharmacists that provides unbiased evidence-based information on the latest developments in drug therapy, as well as reliable recommendations on improving practice and patient care. Since 1985, the editorial team has carefully researched the most important topics and compiled the evidence into both a monthly issue of concise articles and in-depth *Detail-Documents* available 24 hours a day by fax or online at www.pharmacistsletter.com.

In order to remain completely unbiased, *Pharmacist's Letter* does not accept any advertising and has no ties with any drug manufacturing company.

About Therapeutic Research

Therapeutic Research is a completely independent research and publishing organization that provides evidence-based information for physicians, pharmacists, and other medical professionals. Therapeutic Research publishes *Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database*, *Pharmacist's Letter*, *Prescriber's Letter*, *Ident-A-Drug Reference*, and a variety of continuing medical education courses including live courses. Therapeutic Research accepts no advertising and provides objective information for subscribers.

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