 **Toothache & Dental Infections Standing Order**

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| Issue date: |  | Review date: |  |

This standing order is not valid after the review date. The review date is one year after the date the order was signed by the issuer.

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| **Standing Order Name** | Toothache & Dental Infections |
| **Rationale** | To provide symptomatic relief of toothache and treat bacterial dental infections with appropriate antibiotics until patient can be seen by a dentist. |
| **Scope (condition and patient group)** | Adults that present with toothache +/- gingivitis and associated facial swelling |
| **Red Flags** | * Dental infection causing compromised airway * Severe facial swelling * Severe trismus * Systemic symptoms including pyrexia, tachycardia |
| **Assessment** | 1. If any red flags, request acute dental assessment.  2. Determine the cause of the pain:   * + If this is a local problem associated with a tooth (trauma, swelling, ulceration, erupting tooth, decay), request dental assessment.   + If referred pain e.g., Temporomandibular joint dysfunction, ear or sinus infection; refer to Medical or Nurse Practitioner.   3. If dental care is not available (e.g., after hours), and pain is localised to the mouth, and there is no redness or swelling around the tooth, it is likely to be an acute pulpitis. Give analgesia only and follow the Pain Relief (mild to moderate) Standing Order, and advise the patient to see a dental practitioner as soon as possible.  4. If   1. Acute pulpitis is when the tooth pulp suffers inflammation, exerting pressure over the pulp chamber. This affects the nerve and other connective tissues of the tooth causing mild to extreme pain.    * there is swelling, it is likely to be an abscess. |
| **Indication** | **Dental pain with swelling** |
| **Medicine** | **Amoxicillin** |
| **Dosage instructions** | 500mg THREE times daily for 5 days |
| **Route of administration** | Oral |
| **Quantity to be given** | 15 x 500mg capsules |
| **Contraindications** | Allergy to penicillin’s |
| **Precautions** | Renal impairment |
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|  | **Dental pain with swelling for people with penicillin allergy** |
| **Medicine** | Erythromycin 400mg tablets |
| **Dosage instructions** | 800mg TWICE daily for 5 days |
| **Route of administration** | Oral |
| **Quantity to be given** | 20 x 400mg tablets |
| **Contraindications** | Known hypersensitivity to erythromycin |
| **Precautions** | * Multiple drug to drug interactions- check |
| **Additional information** | **Management in primary care** - the patient needs to be seen by a dental practitioner. In the interim, pain can be managed with regular analgesics as per Pain Relief (mild to moderate) Standing Order.  Advise the patient to consume cool, soft food and to avoid very hot or cold foods and drinks. Patients should avoid flossing the affected tooth.  Consider antibiotics only in the absence of immediate attention by a dental practitioner and if:   * The infection appears to be severe (fever, lymphadenopathy, cellulitis, diffuse swelling). * Patients are at risk of developing complications (eg, people who are immunocompromised or have diabetes or valvular heart disease). |
| **Follow-up** | Follow up within 24-48 hours if no improvement, sooner if increasing malaise or any Red Flags. |
| **Countersigning and auditing** | Countersigning is not required. Audited monthly.  **OR**  Countersigning is required within ***XX*** days |
| **Competency/training requirements** | All nurses working under this standing order must be signed off as competent to do so by the issuer and have had specific training in this standing order. |
| **Supporting documentation** | Healthpathways at [www.healthpathways.org.nz](http://www.healthpathways.org.nz)  Best Practice Journal at [www.bpac.org.nz](http://www.bpac.org.nz)  New Zealand Formulary at [www.nzf.org.nz](http://www.nzf.org.nz)  Individual medicine data sheets at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)  Standing Order Guidelines, Ministry of Health, 2012  Medicines (Standing Order) Regulations 2012 (Standing Order Regulations) |
| **Definition of terms used in standing order** | Trismus- spasm of the jaw muscles, leading to reduced opening of the mouth. |

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| **Medical Centre or Clinic:** |  |

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| **Signed by issuers** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Nurses operating under this standing order** |

Only Registered nurses working within the above medical centre or clinic are authorised to administer medication under this standing order.

We the undersigned agree that we have read, understood and will comply with this standing order and all associated documents.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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