

Preparing for Dental Clearance

Please let your cellular therapy care team and dentist know about all the medicines you take.

Before your transplant or cellular therapy, you will see a dentist to check that your teeth are free of infection.

Your dentist needs to know about all of your medicines before you have any dental work or procedures.

It is especially important to tell your dentist if you take any bisphosphonate medicines or have taken them in the past. Bisphosphonates slow healing and can cause complications after dental procedures.

What are bisphosphonates?

Bisphosphonate medicines help treat osteoporosis, other bone conditions and pain, and high blood calcium (hypercalcemia). Some people take them by mouth and others receive them through an injection.

Here are some common bisphosphonates with their generic and brand names:

- Zoledronate (Zometa®, Aclasta®)
- Pamidronate (Aredia®)
- Alendronate (Fosamax®)
- Risedronate (Actonel®)
- Ibandronate (Bondronat®, Bonviva®)

Another common bone-strengthening medication is not a bisphosphonate, but can also affect dental healing:

- Denosumab (Xgeva®, Prolia®)

What other medicines need extra care?

Some medicines can increase your risk of bleeding, infection, and other complications during dental work or cancer treatment.

It is important to tell your dentist and your cellular therapy care team if you are taking:

- Blood thinners – such as aspirin, apixaban (Eliquis®), rivaroxaban (Xarelto®), or clopidogrel (Plavix®)
- Antibiotics

What if my medicines change?

If you start any new medicines or supplements, tell your dentist and your cellular therapy care team right away. This helps keep you safe.