

Section IV Postoperative Medications

Once an oral surgical procedure is complete, the dentist must determine whether a prescription medication is indicated. In addition, in cases with an indication for preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis, the dentist will need to write a prescription for the patient. This section discusses the protocol for writing a prescription, with several examples. The section will then discuss the commonly prescribed drugs used by dentists before and after surgery.

Note that the information in this section is a short summary of the information dentists must know to properly use these drugs and prescribe. It is not intended to substitute for a more comprehensive pharmacology course on the topics of analgesics and antibiotics.

Prescriptions for Drugs

Drugs that carry significant side effects, toxicities, or abuse potential are usually only available by prescription. Therefore, when the dentist needs to give such drugs to a patient, the doctor must “write” a prescription. Whether in hard copy or electronically created and transmitted, prescriptions have a standardized format.

Most practices and institutions have their official name, address, and telephone number at the top of the prescription. This is then followed by blank lines designated for entering the patient’s name, the date, and the patient’s address. Next, the doctor enters the name of the prescribed drug, the unit dosage, the number of doses, and the dosing instructions. These will appear on the label of the drug container dispensed by the pharmacy. Close to the bottom of the prescription is a line for the doctor to sign. On some forms, the line the doctor signs signifies whether the pharmacist filling the prescription may or may not substitute a generic drug for a brand name drug, if the doctor wrote for a brand name drug. A blank line is available for the doctor to enter their Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number when required. The number of refills allowed by the prescriber for that particular prescription can also appear on the prescription form (examples can be seen in [Fig IV-1](#)).

<p style="text-align: center;">Don Carlos Buell, DMD 1825 Battlefield Road Perryville, KY 40468 (859) 555-8631</p> <hr/> <p>Name <u>Braxton Bragg</u> Date <u>10/8/12</u> Address <u>207 Polk St., Perryville, KY</u></p> <p>Amoxicillin 500mg Disp: 4 caps Sig: 4 caps at 8:00 am</p> <p>Refill ①-2-3 <u>Don Carlos Buell</u> DMD DEA No _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Don Carlos Buell, DMD 1825 Battlefield Road Perryville, KY 40468 (859) 555-8631</p> <hr/> <p>Name <u>Braxton Bragg</u> Date <u>10/8/12</u> Address <u>207 Polk St., Perryville, KY</u></p> <p>Aspirin 325 mg \bar{c} 5 mg Oxycodone Disp: 12 (twelve) tabs Sig: One tab q 4 h prn pain. Take with food.</p> <p>Refill ①-2-3 <u>Don Carlos Buell</u> DMD DEA No <u>CBxxxxxxx</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Don Carlos Buell, DMD 1825 Battlefield Road Perryville, KY 40468 (859) 555-8631</p> <hr/> <p>Name <u>Braxton Bragg</u> Date <u>10/8/12</u> Address <u>207 Polk St., Perryville, KY</u></p> <p>Penicillin V 500mg Disp: 28 tabs Sig: 1 tab qid until gone</p> <p>Refill ①-2-3 <u>Don Carlos Buell</u> DMD DEA No _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Don Carlos Buell, DMD 1825 Battlefield Road Perryville, KY 40468 (859) 555-8631</p> <hr/> <p>Name <u>Braxton Bragg</u> Date <u>10/8/12</u> Address <u>207 Polk St., Perryville, KY</u></p> <p>Tylenol # 3 Disp: 18 (eighteen) caps Sig: One cap q 4 h prn pain. Take with food</p> <p>Refill ①-2-3 <u>Don Carlos Buell</u> DMD DEA No <u>CBxxxxxxx</u></p>

FIGURE IV-1. Four examples of prescriptions written for antibiotics and analgesics. Reprinted with permission from Hupp¹.

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