

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania  
Community HealthChoices Dental Providers

**Date:** April 24, 2024

**Subject:** New ADA Guideline Recommends NSAIDs to Manage Dental Pain in Adults

A new clinical practice guideline from the American Dental Association (ADA) recommends nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) taken with or without acetaminophen as first-line treatments for managing acute dental pain in adults and adolescents 12 and older.

According to this new guideline, when used as directed, NSAIDs such as ibuprofen and naproxen on their own or in combination with acetaminophen can effectively manage pain after a tooth extraction or during a toothache when dental care is not immediately available.

The guideline also offers recommendations for prescribing opioid medications in limited circumstances in which they may be appropriate. These include avoiding “precautionary” prescriptions, engaging patients in shared decision-making and exercising extreme caution when prescribing opioids to adolescents and young adults. The guideline also suggests clinicians advise patients on proper storage and disposal and consider any risk factors for opioid misuse and serious adverse events when prescribing opioids.

You can read more information on this guideline here:

<https://www.ada.org/resources/research/science-and-research-institute/evidence-based-dental-research/pain-management-guideline>.

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Dental Account Executive.