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# Updates on Antibiotic Drug Allergy

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November 30, 2023

# Disclosures

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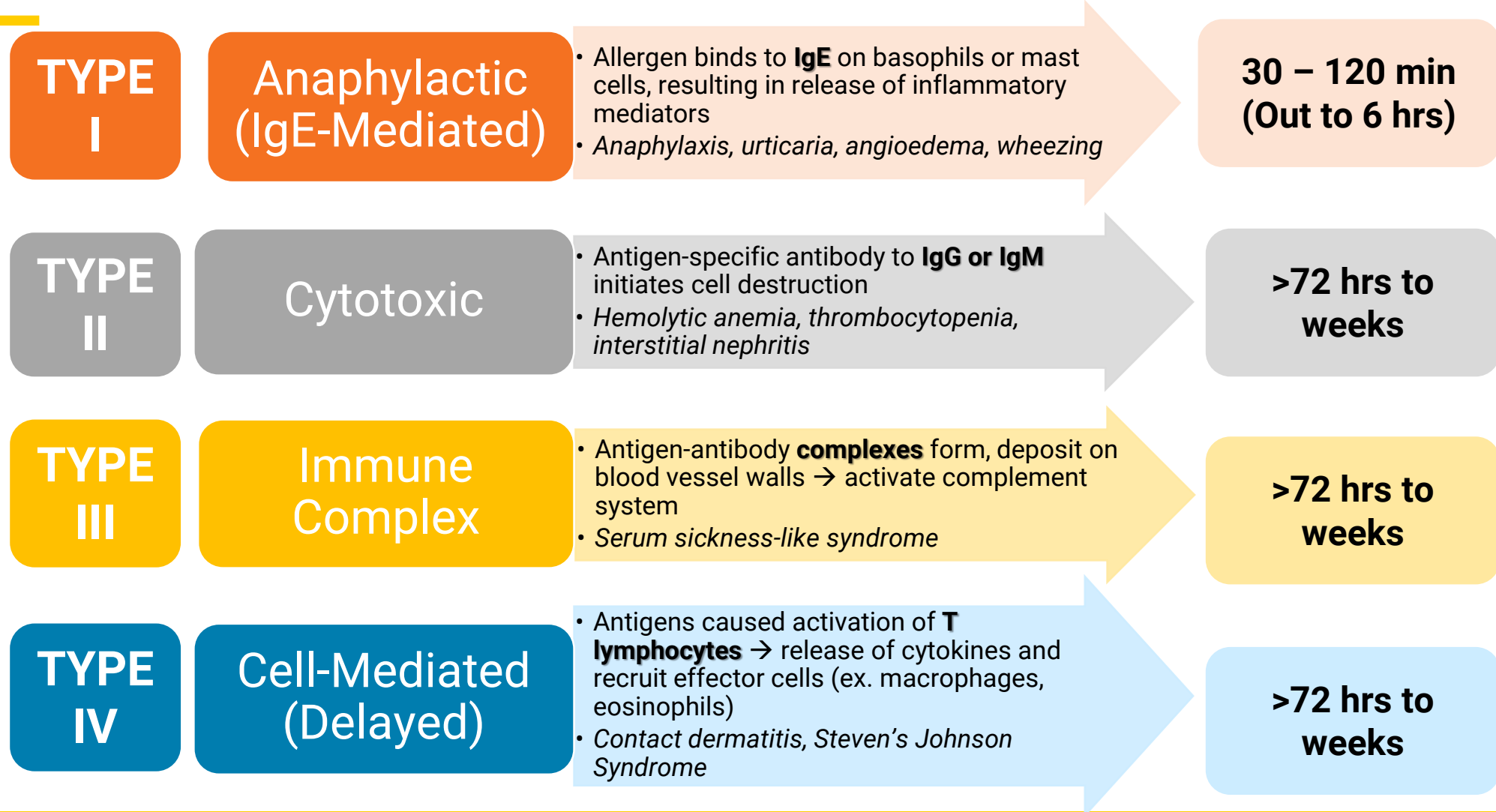
- Dr. Amy Dowden has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.
- Dr. Deanna McDanel has no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

# Learning Objectives

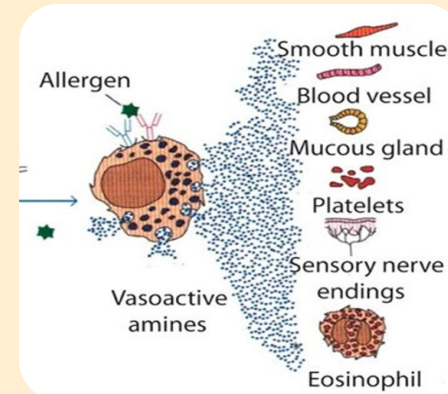
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1. Review key updates on antibiotic drug allergies from the 2022 Drug Allergy Practice Parameter Update and how to incorporate these into practice.
2. Discuss the cross-reactivity of cephalosporins in penicillin allergic patients.
3. Review the appropriate management of antibiotic allergies and understand best practices for de-labeling penicillin allergies.
4. Take away practical applications to optimizing treatment in patients with antibiotic drug allergies.

# Types of Drug Allergy



# Drug Allergy - Pathophysiology



Immunologic response to a **pharmaceutical agent** and/or excipient

*Previously sensitized individual is re-exposed to an allergen*

Classically defined as an **IgE-mediated** reaction

Release of vasoactive mediators from tissue mast cells and peripheral basophils

# IgE-Mediated Drug Allergies

YES

IMMEDIATE ONSET  
hives/rash, pruritus,  
difficulty breathing,  
angioedema, low  
blood pressure,  
and/or anaphylaxis

NO

Drug  
INTOLERANCE or  
undesirable side  
effects



**30-120\***  
MINUTES

Immediate Onset  
*\*6 hours may be possible*



# Drug Allergy Assessment

## Clinical History:

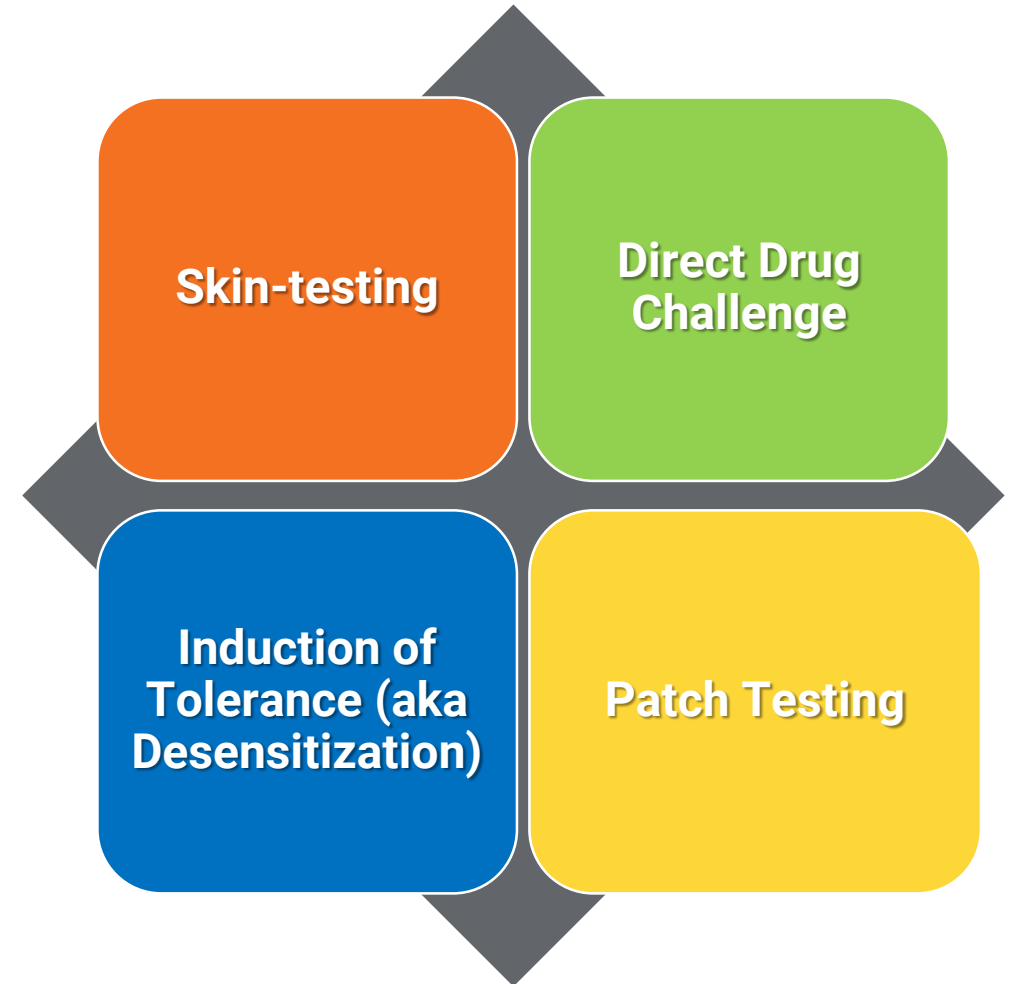
- **A thorough history is important!**
- Obtaining a careful history and reviewing all available medical records is very important

## Diagnosis:

- Based upon clinical history, the patient's records, physical exam findings
- Clinical tests to support adverse drug reactions (skin testing)
- Testing for all drugs is not standardized but referral to an Allergy Specialist may be indicated

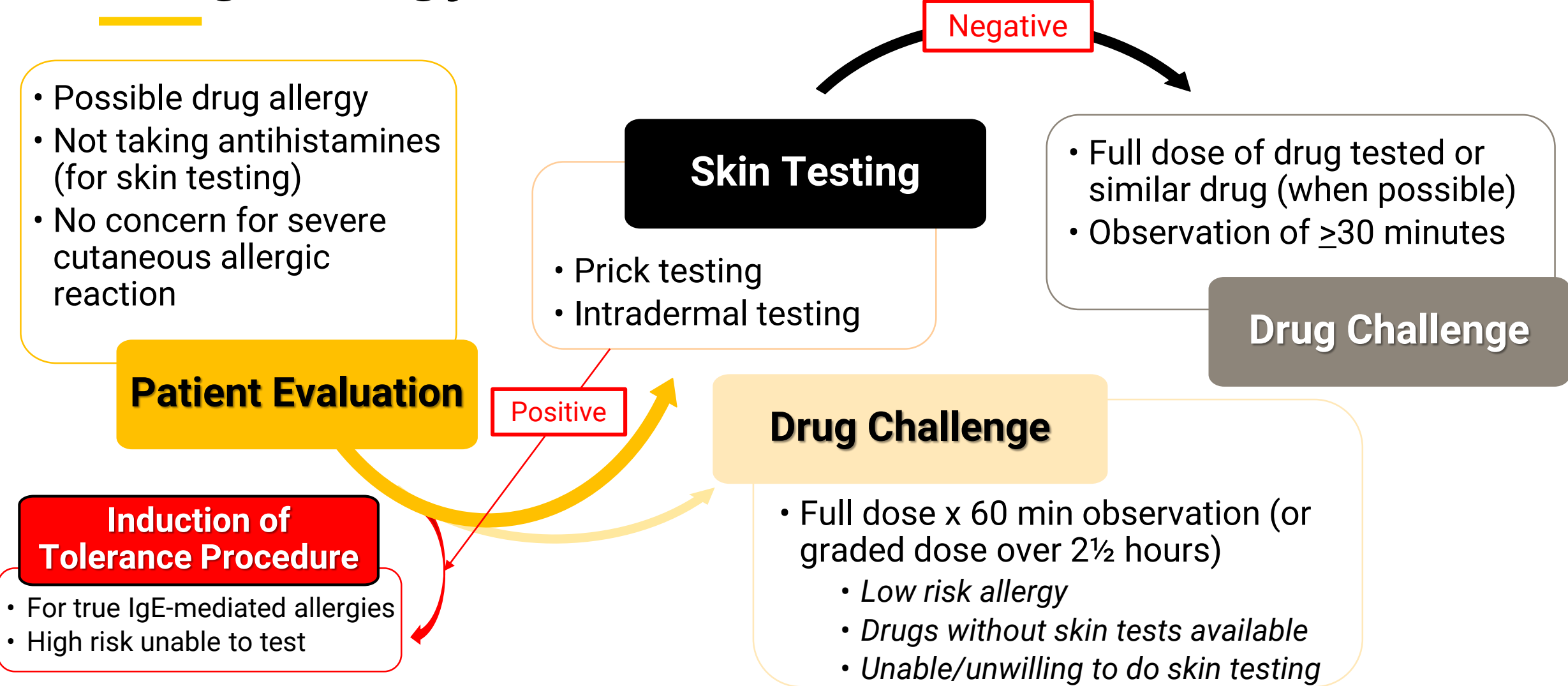
# Drug Allergy Testing

- Identifying *true causative agent* is needed for appropriate drug avoidance
- *Allergy testing* may help provide a definitive cause of an adverse drug reaction and clarify vague patient histories
- *Drug allergy evaluations* by allergy specialists can be very helpful





# Drug Allergy Evaluation



# Drug Allergy: 2022 Practice Parameter Update

- Overall **de-emphasis on the use of skin testing** as compared with drug challenge
  - *Particularly in patients with non-anaphylactic, non-severe cutaneous drug allergy histories*
- More **emphasis on risk stratification** based on reaction phenotype
- Role for **shared decision making** in diagnostic testing and management

## An Important Message



*Drug Allergy: A 2022 Practice Parameter Update*  
Now Available Online

*Practice parameter*

### **Drug allergy: A 2022 practice parameter update**

David A. Khan, MD,<sup>a</sup> Aleena Banerji, MD,<sup>b</sup> Kimberly G. Blumenthal, MD, MSc,<sup>b</sup> Elizabeth J. Phillips, MD,<sup>c,d</sup> Roland Solensky, MD,<sup>e</sup> Andrew A. White, MD,<sup>f</sup> Jonathan A. Bernstein, MD,<sup>g</sup> Derek K. Chu, MD, PhD,<sup>h,i,j</sup> Anne K. Ellis, MD,<sup>k</sup> David B. K. Golden, MD,<sup>l</sup> Matthew J. Greenhawt, MD,<sup>m</sup> Caroline C. Horner, MD,<sup>n</sup> Dennis Ledford, MD,<sup>o,p</sup> Jay A. Lieberman, MD,<sup>q</sup> John Oppenheimer, MD,<sup>r</sup> Matthew A. Rank, MD,<sup>s</sup> Marcus S. Shaker, MD, MSc,<sup>t</sup> David R. Stukus, MD,<sup>u,v</sup> Dana Wallace, MD,<sup>w</sup> and Julie Wang, MD<sup>x</sup> *Dallas, Tex; Boston, Mass; Murdoch, Australia; Nashville and Memphis, Tenn; Corvallis, Ore; San Diego, Calif; Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Hamilton and Kingston, Ontario, Canada; Baltimore, Md; Aurora, Colo; St Louis, Mo; Tampa and Fort Lauderdale, Fla; Rutgers, NJ; Scottsdale, Ariz; Lebanon, NH; and New York, NY*



# Antibiotic Drug Allergy Updates

- Penicillins
- Cephalosporins
- Carbapenems
- Monobactams
- Sulfonamides
- Fluoroquinolones
- Macrolides



# Penicillin Allergies

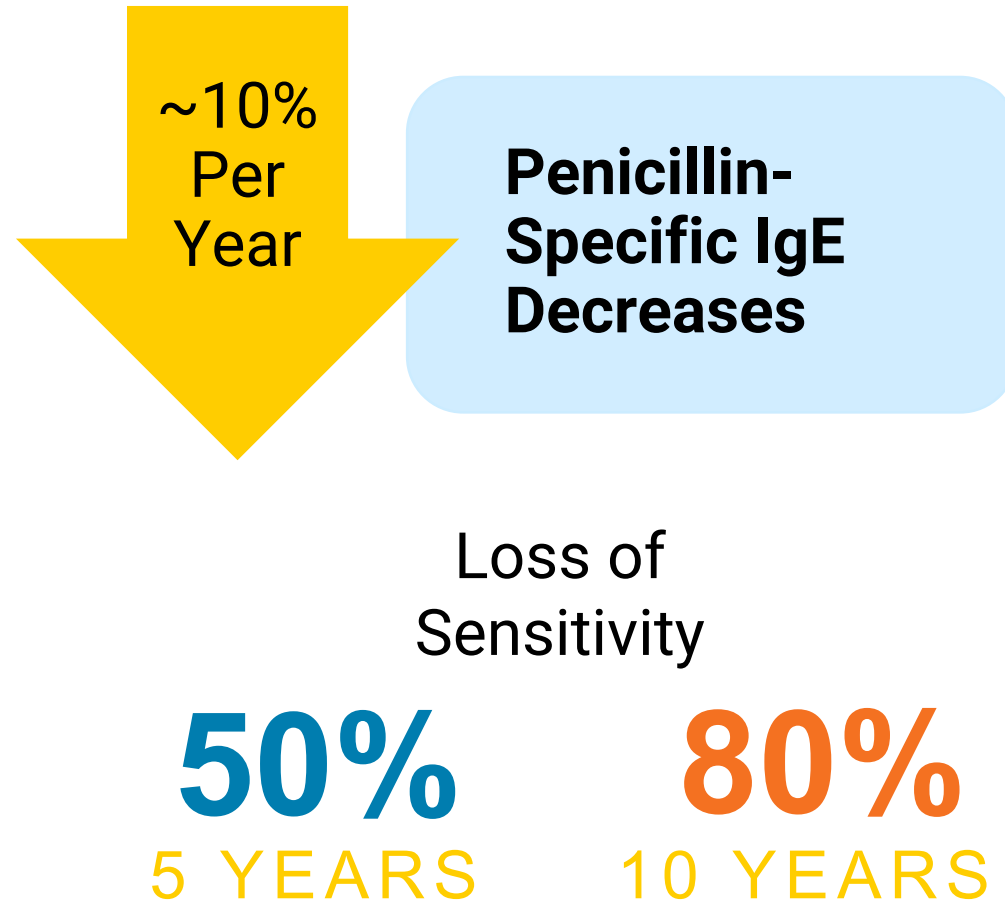
A **penicillin-allergy label** is usually acquired in childhood

# Penicillin Allergy Label



Personal Health Implications	Public Health Implications	Formal Allergy Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fewer efficacious antibiotic choices</li><li>More toxic effects associated with alternative antibiotics</li><li>Use of broad-spectrum antibiotics</li><li>More postoperative surgical-site infections</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Antibiotic resistance</li><li>Higher rates of <i>C. difficile</i> infection</li><li>Use of more costly antibiotics</li><li>Increased length of hospital stays</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&lt;5% Labeled as allergic to penicillin are truly allergic</li></ul>

# Penicillin Drug Allergy - Amnesia



# Penicillin Allergy



We recommend that a **proactive effort should be made to de-label** patients with reported penicillin allergy, if appropriate



**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Strong**



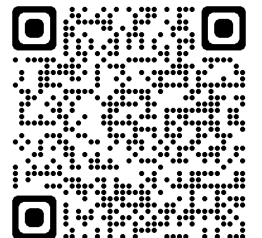
**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Moderate**

FULL TEXT ARTICLE

Penicillin Allergy Evaluation Should Be Performed Proactively in Patients with a Penicillin Allergy Label 

Article in Press: Accepted Manuscript

Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice, Copyright © 2023



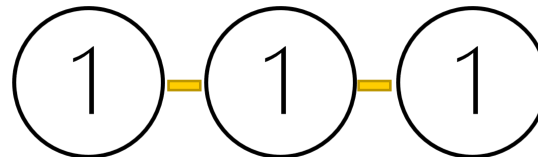
# Penicillin Allergy



We suggest **penicillin skin testing** for patients with a history of **anaphylaxis** or a **recent reaction** suspected to be IgE-mediated



Strength of Recommendation:  
**Conditional**



Certainty of Evidence:  
**Low**

Urticaria after first dose in **1 hour**  
Regressed in **1 day**  
Occurred within **1 year**  
**High likelihood of positive skin test**



# Skin Testing Process

## Step 1: Materials



## Step 2: Skin Prick Test



## Step 3: Process **15** min



## Step 4: Measure



## Step 5 if (-): Intradermal Test

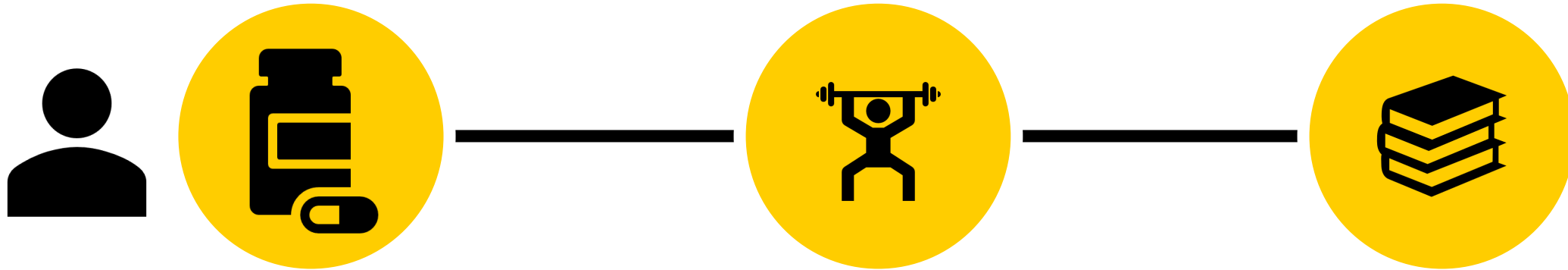


## Step 6&7: Process **20** min & Measure



Step 8 if (-):  
Drug challenge if able  
**>30** min observation

# Penicillin Allergy

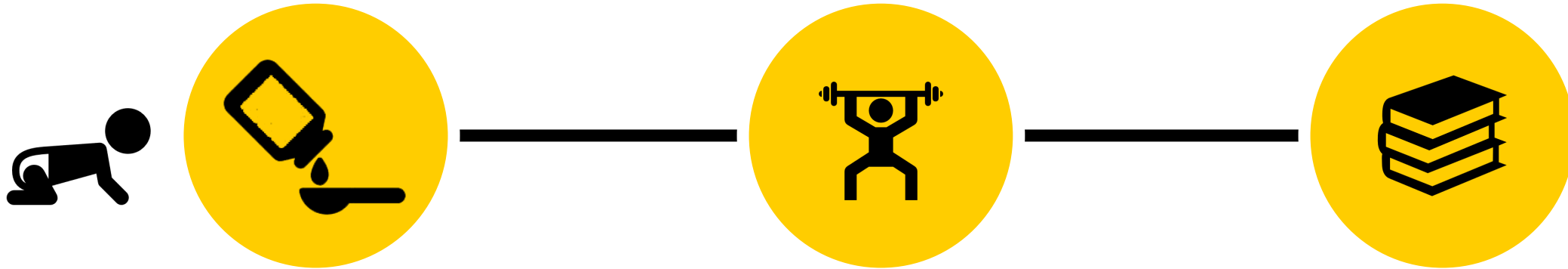


We suggest that **direct amoxicillin challenge be considered** in adults with a history of **distant (i.e., >5 years ago) AND benign cutaneous reactions**, such as morbilliform drug eruption (MDE) and urticaria

Strength of Recommendation:  
**Conditional**

Certainty of Evidence:  
**Low**

# Penicillin Allergy



We recommend **against** penicillin skin testing prior to direct amoxicillin challenge in PEDIATRIC patients with a history of **benign cutaneous reaction**, such as MDE and urticaria

Strength of Recommendation:  
**Strong**

Certainty of Evidence:  
**Moderate**

# Penicillin Allergy

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We recommend **against** any testing in patients with a history **inconsistent with penicillin allergy** (such as headache, family history, or diarrhea), but a *1-step amoxicillin challenge* may be offered if anxious or request additional reassurance to accept removal of penicillin allergy label

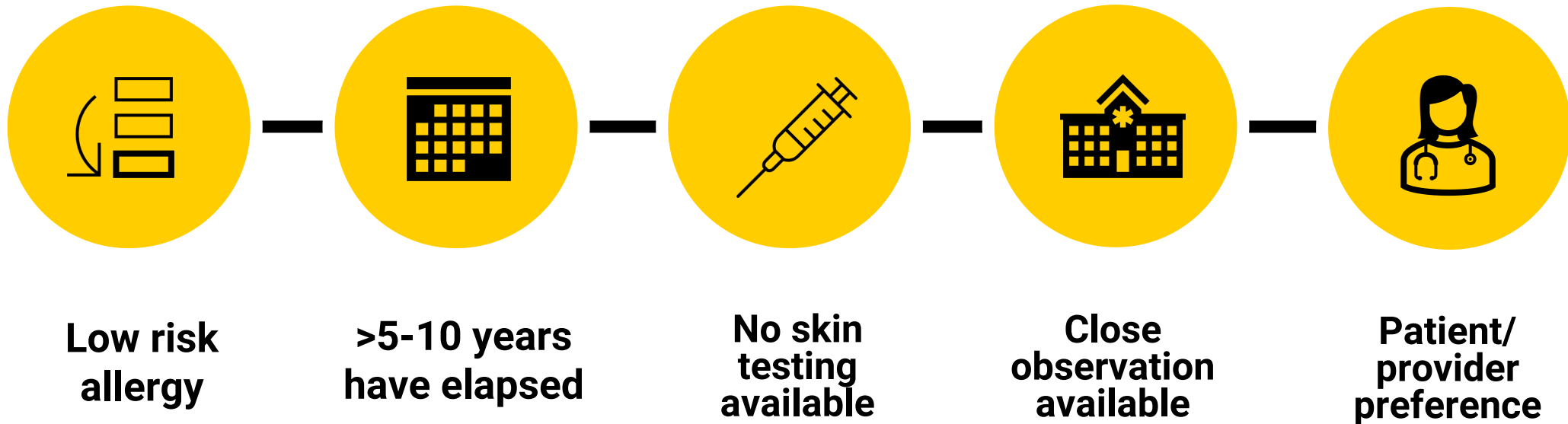


Strength of Recommendation:  
**Strong**



Certainty of Evidence:  
**Low**

# Drug Challenge ONLY



- **1- or 2- step drug challenge** is indicated if after evaluation they are deemed unlikely to be allergic
- **Placebo-controlled challenge** should be considered if subjective symptoms and/or multiple reported drug allergies

# PEN-FAST

Figure. PEN-FAST Penicillin Allergy Clinical Decision Rule

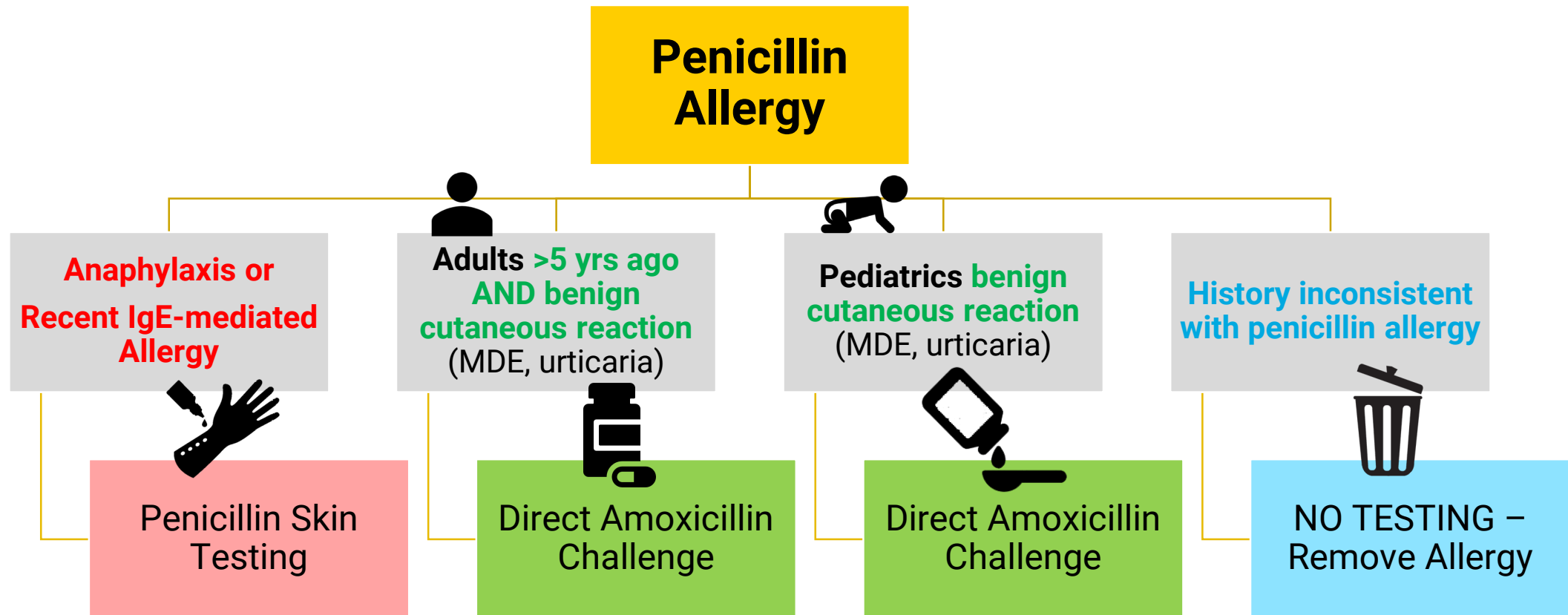
<b>PEN</b>	Penicillin allergy reported by patient	<input type="checkbox"/> If yes, proceed with assessment
<b>F</b>	Five years or less since reaction <sup>a</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 points</b>
<b>A</b>	Anaphylaxis or angioedema	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 points</b>
<b>S</b>	Severe cutaneous adverse reaction <sup>b</sup>	
<b>T</b>	Treatment required for reaction <sup>a</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>1 point</b>
		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Total points</b>
Interpretation		
Points		
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<b>Very low risk</b> of positive penicillin allergy test <1% (<1 in 100 patients reporting penicillin allergy)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2	<b>Low risk</b> of positive penicillin allergy test 5% (1 in 20 patients)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<b>Moderate risk</b> of positive penicillin allergy test 20% (1 in 5 patients)	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-5	<b>High risk</b> of positive penicillin allergy test 50% (1 in 2 patients)	

The PEN-FAST clinical decision rule for patients reporting a penicillin allergy uses 3 clinical criteria of time from penicillin allergy episode, phenotype, and treatment required. A total score is calculated using PEN-FAST score in the upper panel, and interpretation for risk strategy is provided in the lower panel.

<sup>a</sup> Includes unknown.

<sup>b</sup> Forms of severe delayed reactions include potential Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms, and acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis. Patients with a severe delayed rash with mucosal involvement should be considered to have a severe cutaneous adverse reaction. Acute interstitial nephritis, drug induced liver injury, serum sickness and isolated drug fever were excluded phenotypes from the derivation and validation cohorts.

# Penicillin Allergy – Summary of Recommendations



\*MDE – Morbilliform drug eruption

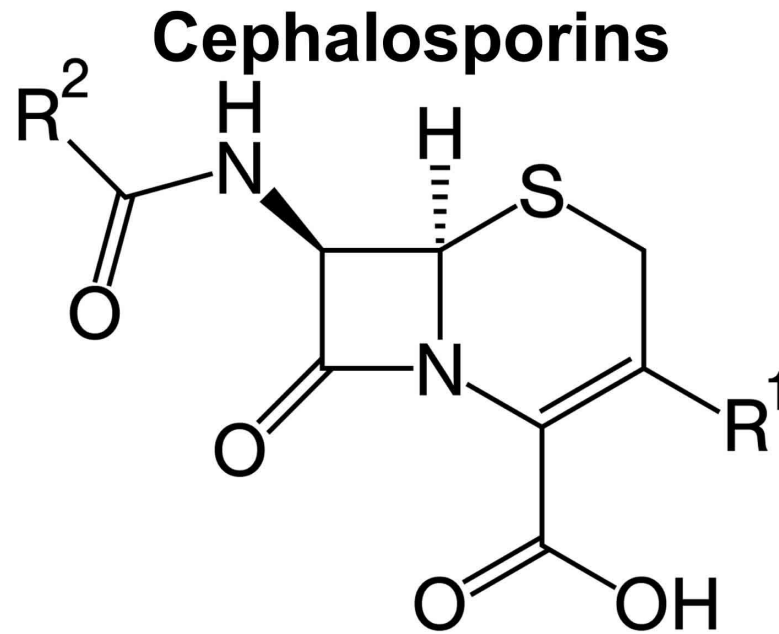
# Post-Assessment CASE

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- You have a patient with transient urticaria with the first 24 hours of taking amoxicillin 15 years. What is the next best step?
  - A. Amoxicillin drug challenge**
  - B. Avoid all penicillins
  - C. Penicillin skin testing
  - D. Still unsure on what to do



# Cephalosporin Allergies



# Cephalosporin Drug Allergy

## Cross- Reactivity *Penicillin & Cephalosporins*

- Immediate allergies largely related to antigenic responses to R1 group/side chains rather than core beta-lactam
- Anaphylaxis may occur if history of penicillin allergy
- Cross-reactivity is lower than previously thought
- Before 1980, cross-reactivity was 10% as 1<sup>st</sup> generation cephalosporins were contaminated with PCN

## FACTS

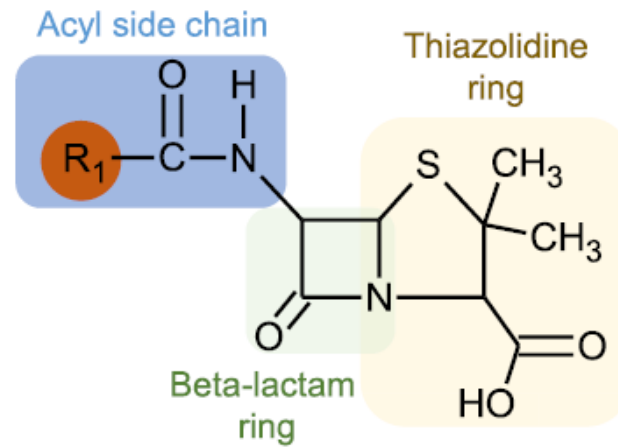
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> generation most common
- Infrequent clinical significance

<2  
PERCENT

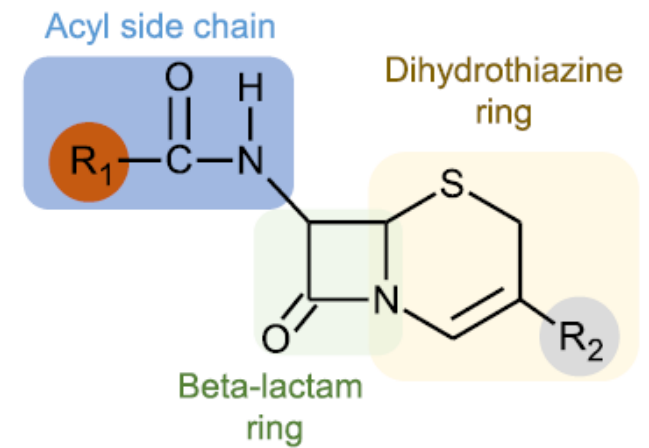
**Chance of Reaction to Cephalosporin  
with Penicillin Allergy History**

# Cephalosporin Drug Allergy

Penicillin Structure



Cephalosporin Structure



# Penicillin Allergy – Giving Cephalosporins



We suggest that for patients with history of unverified (not confirmed) **non-anaphylactic penicillin allergy**, a **cephalosporin can be administered** without testing or additional precautions



We suggest that for patients with **anaphylaxis to a penicillin**, a structurally dissimilar R1 side chain **cephalosporin can be administered** without testing or additional precautions



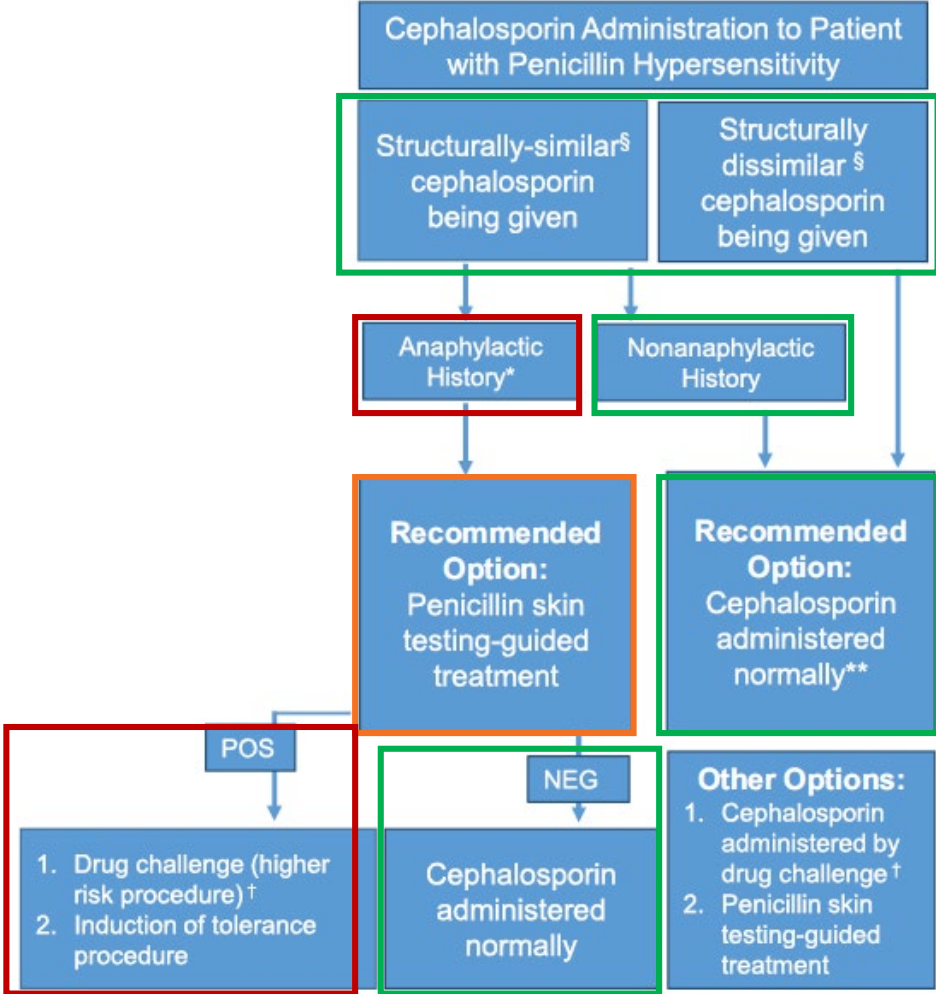
**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Conditional**



**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Moderate**

 **PRACTICE CHANGE**

# NEW: *Penicillin Allergy* – Giving *Cephalosporins*



\*Anaphylaxis, angioedema, hypotension, or other severe IgE-mediated reactions.

§Similarity or cross-reactivity based on R1 side chain.

\*\*Penicillin allergy assessment performed in the future as the penicillin allergy label would remain.

†All drug challenges are 1-2 steps with number of steps determined on patient allergy history, patient clinical history and structural similarity between R1 side chains.

# Beta-Lactam Antibiotic Groups

**TABLE XII.** Groups of beta-lactam antibiotics that share side chains

R1—Identical side chains						
Amoxicillin	Ampicillin	Ceftriaxone	Cefotaxime	Cefoxitin	<i>Cefamandole</i>	Ceftazidime
Cefadroxil	Cefaclor	Cephalexin	Cefpodoxime	Cefditoren	<i>Cefonicid</i>	Aztreonam
Cefprozil	<i>Cephradine</i>		<i>Ceftizoxime</i>	<i>Cephalothin</i>		
<i>Cefatrizine</i>	<i>Cephaloglycin</i>		<i>Cefmenoxime</i>			
R2—Identical side chains						
Cephalexin	Cefotaxime	Cefuroxime		Cefotetan	Cefaclor	Ceftibuten
Cefadroxil	<i>Cephalothin</i>	Cefoxitin		<i>Cefamandole</i>	<i>Loracarbef</i>	<i>Ceftizoxime</i>
<i>Cephradine</i>	<i>Cephaloglycin</i>			<i>Cefmetazole</i>	<i>Cefpiramide</i>	
	<i>Cephapirin</i>					

*Italic* indicates the drug is not available in United States or manufacturing has been discontinued. Similar side chains may also be a source of cross-reactivity, see cross-reactivity matrix (see Fig E2).

# Beta-Lactam Antibiotic Groups

	Cefazolin (first)	Cefaclor (second)	Cefadroxil (first)	Cefepime (fourth)	Cefotaxime (third)	Cefoxitin(second)	Cefprozil (second)	Ceftazidime (third)	Ceftriaxone (third)	Cephalexin (first)	Amoxicillin	Ampicillin	Aztreonam
Cefazolin (first)	-												
Cefaclor (second)		-								X		X	
Cefadroxil (first)			-				X			X	X		
Cefepime (fourth)				-	X				X				
Cefotaxime (third)				X	-				X				
Cefoxitin(second)						-							
Cefprozil (second)			X				-				X		
Ceftazidime (third)								-					X
Ceftriaxone (third)				X	X				-				
Cephalexin (first)		X	X							-		X	
Amoxicillin			X				X				-		
Ampicillin		X								X		-	
Aztreonam								X					-

FIGURE 2. Matrix of  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics with identical R1-group side chains (red).

# Cephalosporin Allergy – Giving Penicillins



We suggest with a history of an unverified **non-anaphylactic cephalosporin allergy**, a **penicillin can be administered** without testing or additional precautions



We suggest **against penicillin skin testing** with a history of **non-anaphylactic cephalosporin allergy** prior to administration of a penicillin therapy



We suggest with a history of **anaphylaxis to cephalosporins**, **penicillin skin testing and drug challenge should be performed** prior to administration of a penicillin therapy



**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Conditional**

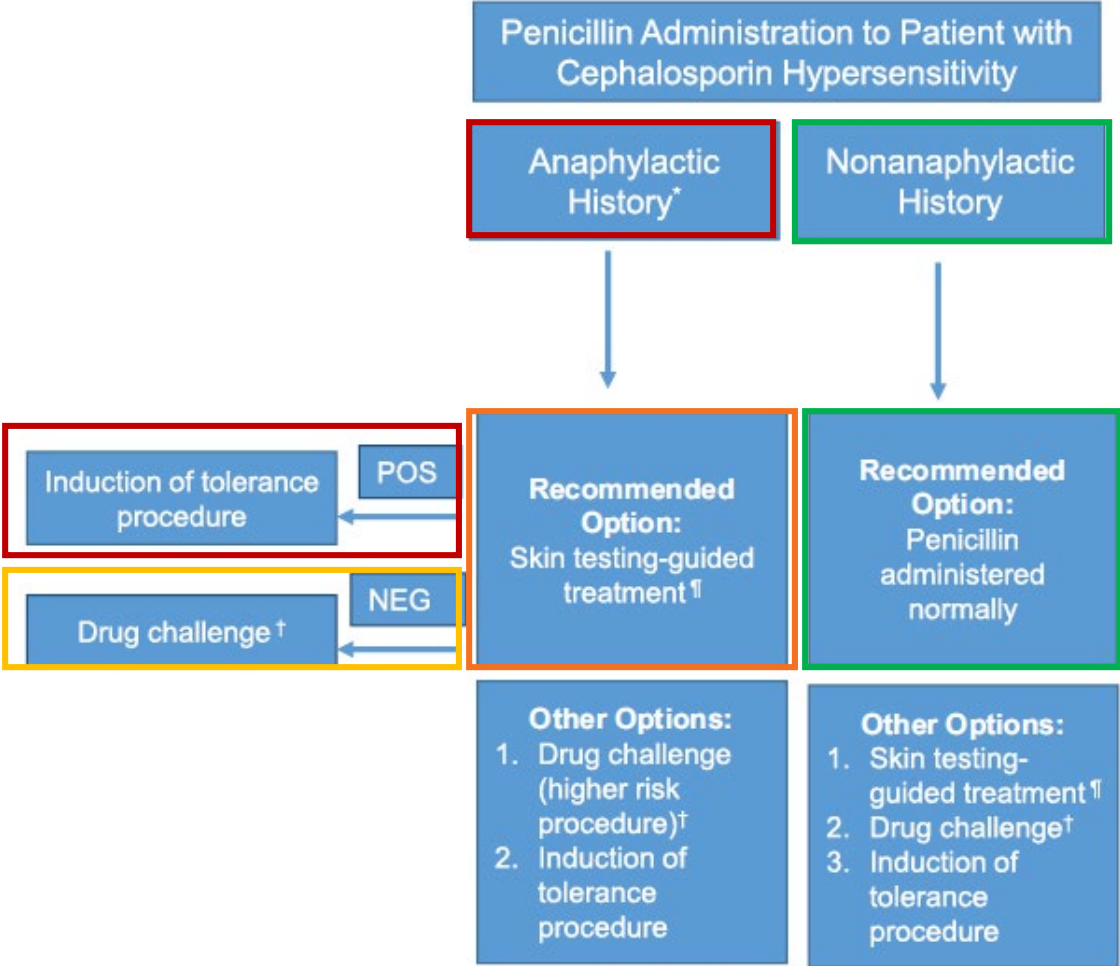


**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Low**

 **PRACTICE CHANGE**



# Cephalosporin Allergy – Giving Penicillins



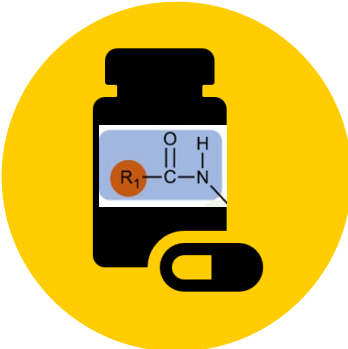
\*Anaphylaxis, angioedema, hypotension, or other severe IgE-mediated reactions.

§Similarity or cross-reactivity based on R1 side chain.

¶**Cephalosporin skin testing should be used for parenteral cephalosporins only.** A positive (POS) test suggests IgE antibodies and induction of tolerance procedure should be performed or administration of an alternative cephalosporin to which the patient was skin test negative (NEG). A negative test should be followed by a drug challenge.

†All drug challenges are 1-2 steps with number of steps determined on patient allergy history, patient clinical history and structural similarity between R1 side chains.

# Cephalosporin Allergy – Giving Cephalosporins



We suggest that for patients with a history of **non-anaphylactic cephalosporin allergy**, **direct challenges** (without prior skin test) to cephalosporins with dissimilar side chains be performed to determine tolerance



We suggest that for patients with a history of **anaphylaxis to a cephalosporin**, a **negative cephalosporin skin test** should be confirmed prior to administration of a parenteral cephalosporin with a non-identical R1 side chain



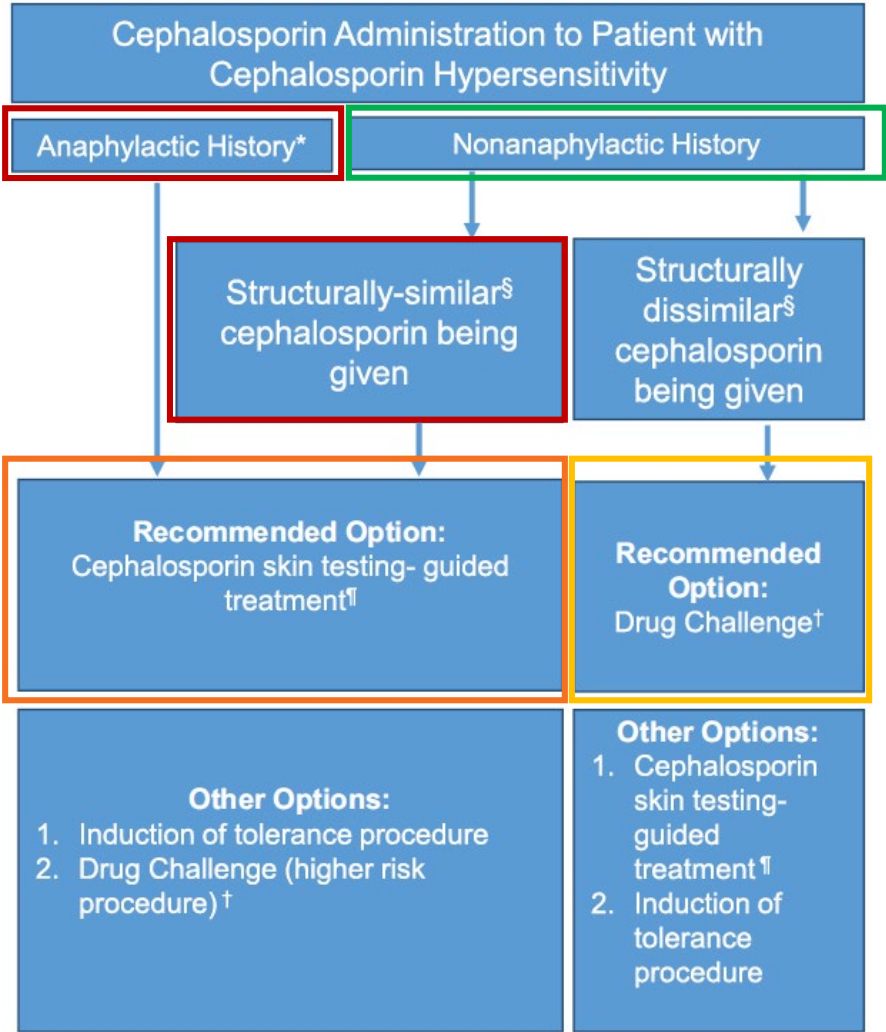
**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Conditional**



**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Moderate**  
(non-anaphylactic)  
**Low**  
(anaphylaxis)

 **PRACTICE CHANGE**

# Cephalosporin Allergy – Giving Cephalosporins



\*Anaphylaxis, angioedema, hypotension, or other severe IgE-mediated reactions.

§Similarity or cross-reactivity based on R1 side chain.

¶Cephalosporin skin testing should be used for parenteral cephalosporins only. A positive (POS) test suggests IgE antibodies and induction of tolerance procedure should be performed or administration of an alternative cephalosporin to which the patient was skin test negative (NEG). A negative test should be followed by a drug challenge.

†All drug challenges are 1-2 steps with number of steps determined on patient allergy history, patient clinical history and structural similarity between R1 side chains.

# Cephalosporin Skin Testing

TABLE XIII. Immediate hypersensitivity cephalosporin skin testing<sup>119,265,266</sup>

	Cefazolin*	Cefuroxime†	Cefotaxime	Ceftazidime	Ceftriaxone	Cefepime‡
Step 1: Epicutaneous (prick/puncture)	200 mg/mL	90 mg/mL	100 mg/mL	100 mg/mL	100 mg/mL	2 mg/mL
Step 2:§ Intradermal	2.0 mg/mL	1 mg/mL	1 mg/mL	1 mg/mL	1 mg/mL	2 mg/mL
Step 3: Intradermal	20 mg/mL	10 mg/mL	10 mg/mL	10 mg/mL	10 mg/mL	2 mg/mL

\*Others have used 100 mg/mL for epicutaneous and 1 mg/mL and 10 mg/mL for intradermal testing.<sup>267,268</sup>

†Recommended 100 mg/mL for testing, but 90 mg/mL is the final concentration when the drug is resuspended.

‡For cefepime, 20 mg/mL is irritating.

§Recommended primarily for patients with history of severe and/or recurrent reactions. Penicillin skin testing may also be appropriate for patients presenting with cephalosporin allergy in some circumstances.

# Summary

Nonanaphylactic Benign  
Cutaneous Reaction  
(>5 Years Ago)

Anaphylactic Reaction  
OR Recent Ig-E Mediated  
Reaction (<5 years ago)

## Drug Allergy Label

Drug to be Administered	Penicillin Derivative	Cephalosporin Derivative
Penicillin Derivative	Amoxicillin drug challenge	No testing needed prior to administration
Cephalosporin Derivative	No testing needed prior to administration	<u>Structurally Similar R1 Side Chain</u> Cephalosporin skin testing (when available), and if negative, followed by cephalosporin drug challenge OR drug challenge alone in low risk patients
		<u>Structurally Dissimilar</u> Cephalosporin drug challenge
Penicillin Derivative	Penicillin skin testing, and if negative, followed by amoxicillin drug challenge	Penicillin skin testing, and if negative, followed by amoxicillin drug challenge OR may consider cephalosporin skin testing (when available)
Cephalosporin Derivative	<u>Structurally Similar</u> Penicillin skin testing, and if negative, followed by amoxicillin drug challenge and then administer cephalosporin normally	Cephalosporin skin testing (when available) followed by cephalosporin drug challenge
	<u>Structurally Dissimilar</u> No testing needed prior to administration	

*\*Adapted from the Khan et al. Drug allergy: A 2022 practice parameter update. Note, these are the most common options for evaluation, but other options do exist based on individual patient risk. Please refer to the practice parameter for full details.*

# Post-Assessment CASE

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- You have a patient with wheezing, diffuse flushing and hypotension within 30 min of taking amoxicillin 7 years ago. What is the next best step if they need a cephalosporin?
  - A. Give cephalexin without precautions**
  - B. Give cefprozil without precautions
  - C. Give a non-beta-lactam antibiotic
  - D. Refer to Allergy Clinic before prescribing anything

# CASE

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- You have a patient with a diffuse morbilliform rash 3 days after taking cephalexin 10 years ago. What is the next best step if a beta-lactam would be the first line treatment?
  - A. Prescribe an alternate non-beta-lactam antibiotic
  - B. Prescribe amoxicillin without precaution**
  - C. Prescribe cefaclor without precaution
  - D. Refer to Allergy Clinic for cephalexin skin testing

# Sulfonamide Allergies

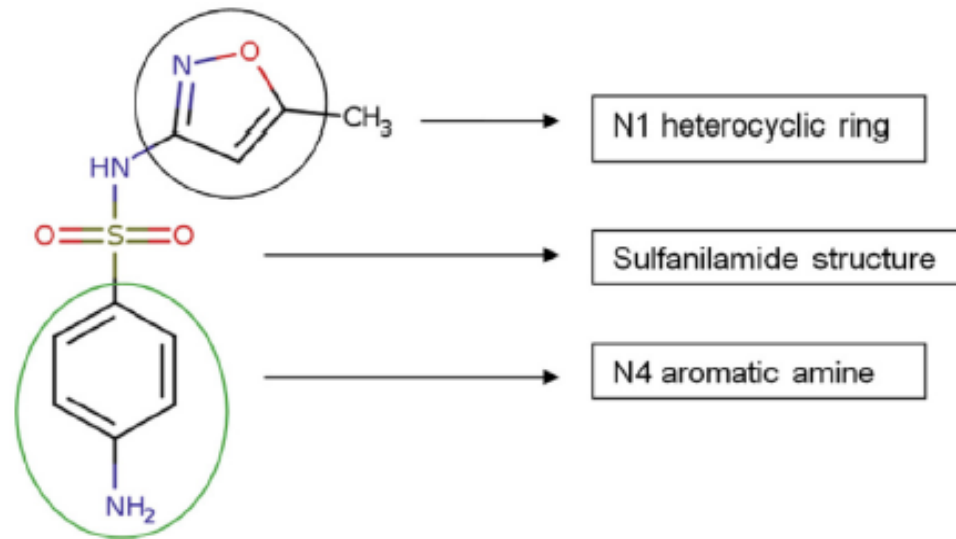


FIG 4. Structure of sulfonamide.



# Sulfonamide Drug Allergy

## SULFONAMIDES

- Compounds that have a SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> moiety
- Reactions are primarily a maculopapular rash accompanied by fever

**3-6**  
PERCENT

**Patients Have Reported Allergic Reactions to Sulfa Antibiotics**

## Classes of Sulfa Drugs

- 1** Sulfonylarylamines (includes sulfa antibiotics)
  - 2** Non-sulfonylarylamines
  - 3** Sulfonamide moiety containing agents
- NO** Cross-reactivity between these 3 classes

# Sulfonamide Groups

## Sulfonylarylamines

### *Antibiotics*

Sulfacetamide  
Sulfadiazine  
Sulfamethoxazole  
Sulfanilamide  
Sulfasalazine  
Sulfisoxazole

### *Antivirals*

Amprenavir  
Darunavir  
Fosamprenavir  
Tipranavir

## Non-Sulfonylarylamines

### *Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors*

Acetazolamide  
Brinzolamide  
Dorzolamide  
Methazolamide

### *Cox-2 Inhibitors*

Celecoxib

### *Loop Diuretics*

Bumetanide  
Furosemide  
Torsemide

### *Sulfonylureas*

Glimepiride  
Glipizide  
Glyburide  
Tolazamide

### *Thiazide Diuretics*

Chlorothiazide  
Chlorthalidone  
Hydrochlorothiazide

## Sulfonamide Moiety

### *5-HT Antagonists*

Naratriptan  
Sumatriptan  
Zolmitriptan

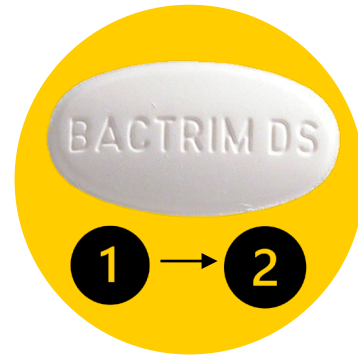
### *Other Agents*

Probenecid  
Tamsulosin  
Indapamide  
Metolazone  
Sotalol  
Topiramate  
Zonisamide

# Sulfonamide Antibiotic Allergy



We suggest for patients with a history of **benign cutaneous reactions** (e.g. morbilliform drug eruption, urticaria) to sulfonamide antibiotics that occurred **>5 years** ago, a **1-step drug challenge with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole** be performed when there is a need to delabel a sulfonamide antibiotic allergy



For patients with reactions within the past 5 years, a **2-step challenge is now recommended**



**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Conditional**



**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Low**

**There is no skin testing available for sulfa allergies**

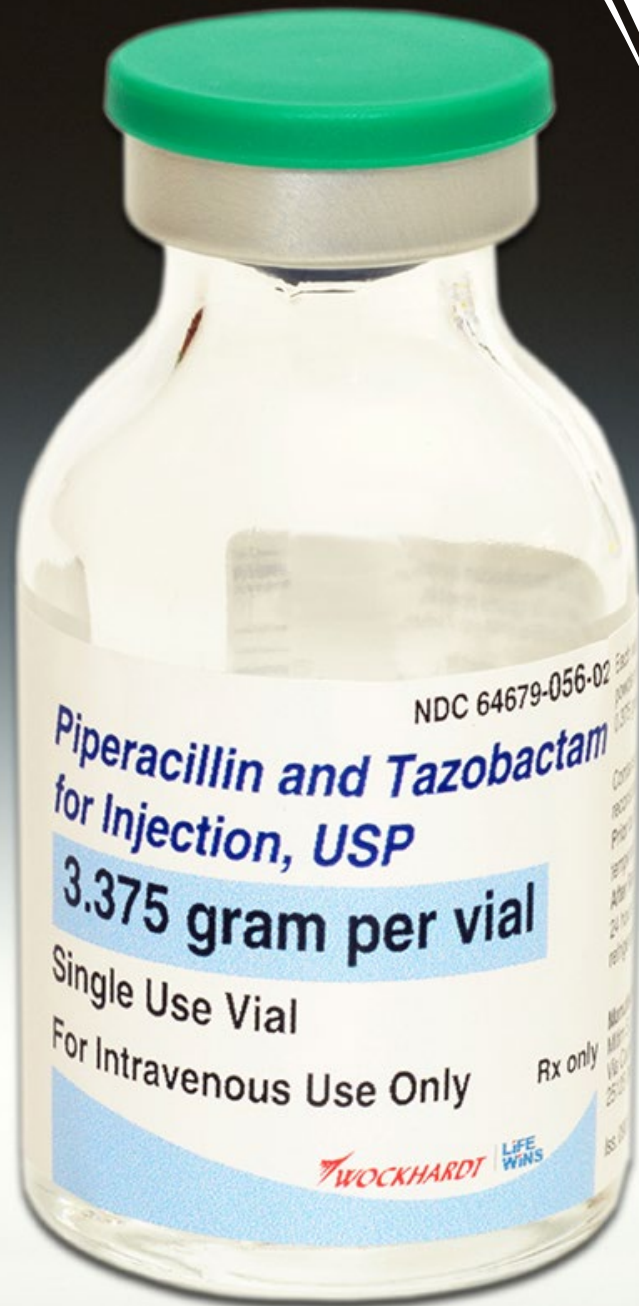
# Other Antibiotic Allergies

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A photograph of medical supplies including a red pill bottle, several capsules, and a syringe on a document titled 'Antibiotics'. The pill bottle is tilted, and the capsules are scattered around it. The syringe is yellow and has a needle attached. The document is white and has the word 'Antibiotics' printed in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, there is some blurred text that appears to be a paragraph of text.

**Antibiotics**

accuracy and diversity of modern tre  
the most effective set of treatment for  
is not toxic, has no contraind  
compared v

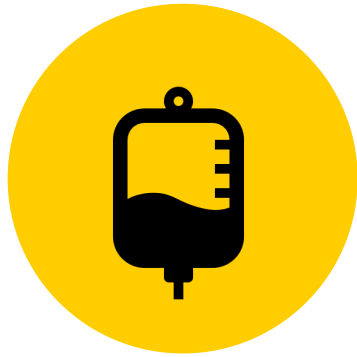


# Selective Reactions to Piperacillin-Tazobactam

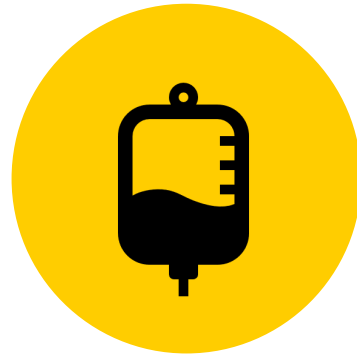
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- Reports of selective allergic reactions to piperacillin-tazobactam have been published
- Most patients with reactions to piperacillin-tazobactam can tolerate other penicillins
- These individuals have **positive skin testing to piperacillin-tazobactam**, but are **negative to all other penicillin skin test reagents (and tolerate other penicillins)**
- Skin testing to piperacillin-tazobactam may be useful to identify this selective sensitivity, but the utility of this skin testing is unknown

# Carbapenems and Monobactams



We suggest that in patients with a history of penicillin or cephalosporin allergy, a **carbapenem** may be **administered** without testing or additional precautions



We suggest that in patients with a history of penicillin or cephalosporin allergy, **aztreonam** may be **administered** without prior testing unless there is a history of ceftazidime allergy



**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Conditional**



**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Moderate**

# Fluoroquinolones & Macrolides



We suggest using a **1-step or 2-step drug challenge** without preceding skin testing to confirm tolerance in patients with a history of **non-anaphylactic reactions** to **fluoroquinolones or macrolides**

**Strength of Recommendation:**  
**Conditional**

**Certainty of Evidence:**  
**Low**

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# Antimicrobial Stewardship Efforts





# Antibiotic Stewardship

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We recommend that **allergist-immunologists collaborate** with hospitals and healthcare systems to implement beta-lactam allergy pathways to improve **antibiotic stewardship** outcome



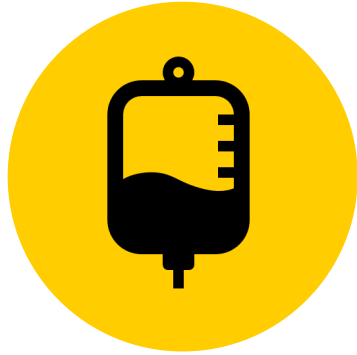
Strength of Recommendation:  
**Strong**



Certainty of Evidence:  
**Moderate**

# UIHC Stewardship Efforts

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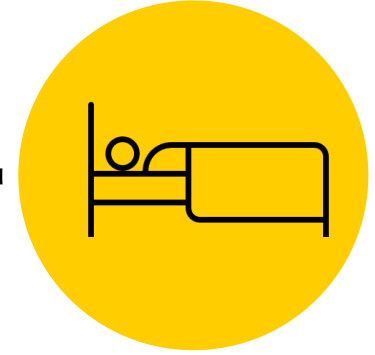
**Clearance to get  
cefazolin**



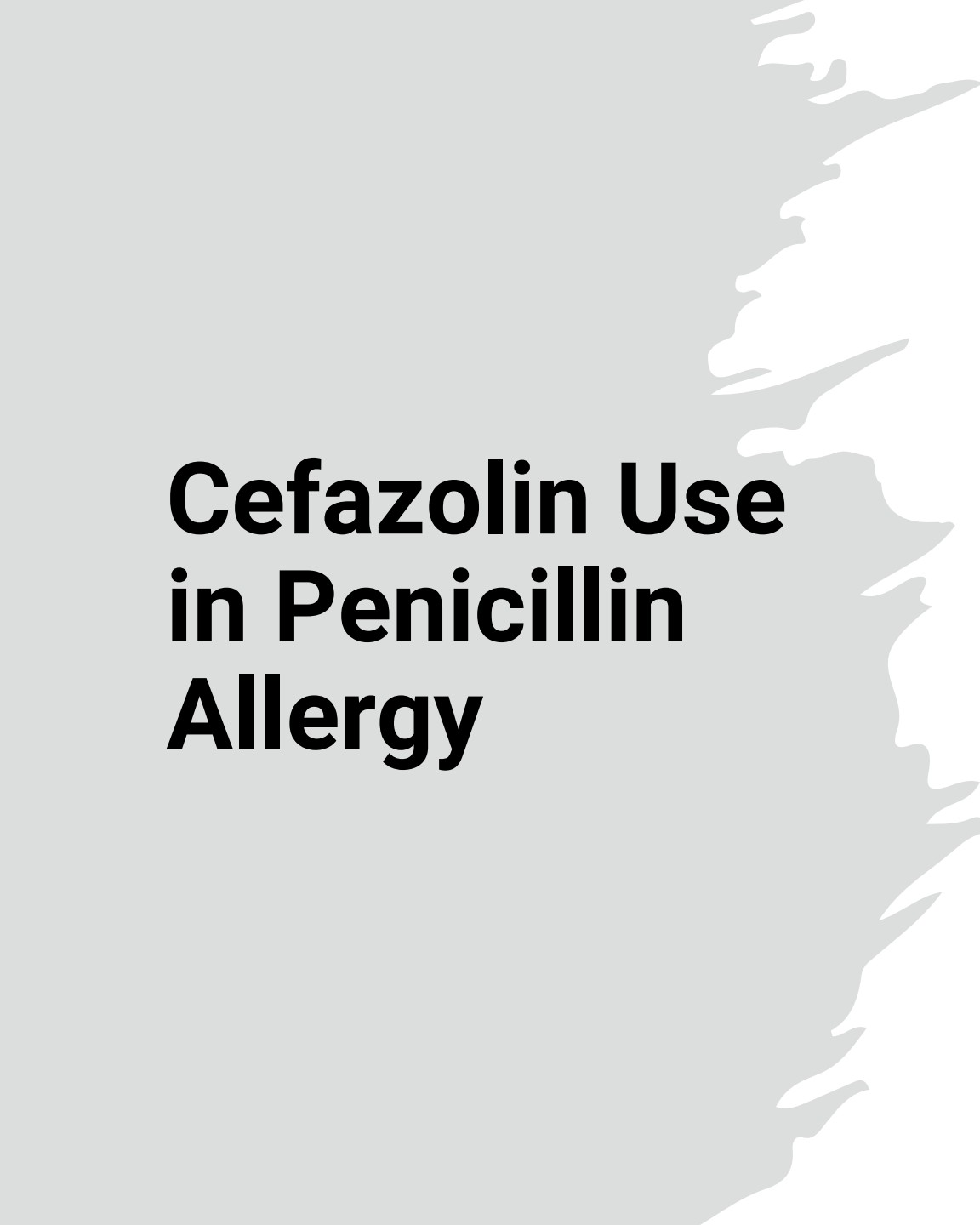
**Decoupling of  
Epic cross-  
reactivity alerts  
for beta-lactam  
antibiotics**



**BPA for  
obstetrics**



**Inpatient  
amoxicillin  
challenges**



# Cefazolin Use in Penicillin Allergy

**UIHC guidance now  
supports use of cefazolin  
for ANY penicillin allergy**

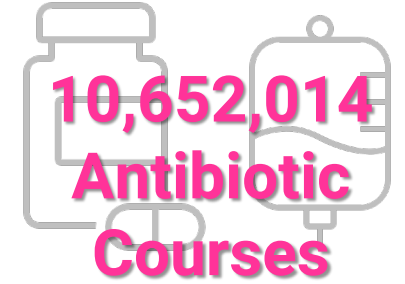
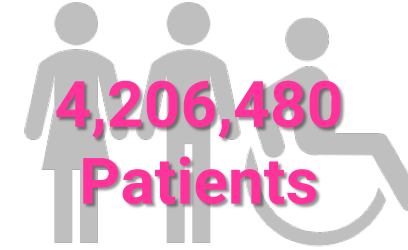
- Literature validates that cefazolin is safe to give in ALL penicillin allergic patients
  - Regardless of allergy history
- Information went out to ALL surgical services
- Continued education of prescribers



Original Investigation | Allergy

## Association Between Removal of a Warning Against Cephalosporin Use in Patients With Penicillin Allergy and Antibiotic Prescribing

Eric Macy, MD, MS; Thomas A. McCormick, PhD; John L. Adams, PhD; William W. Crawford, MD; Myngoc T. Nguyen, MD; Liem Hoang, PharmD, MS; Victoria Eng, MD; Anna C. Davis, PhD; Elizabeth A. McGlynn, PhD

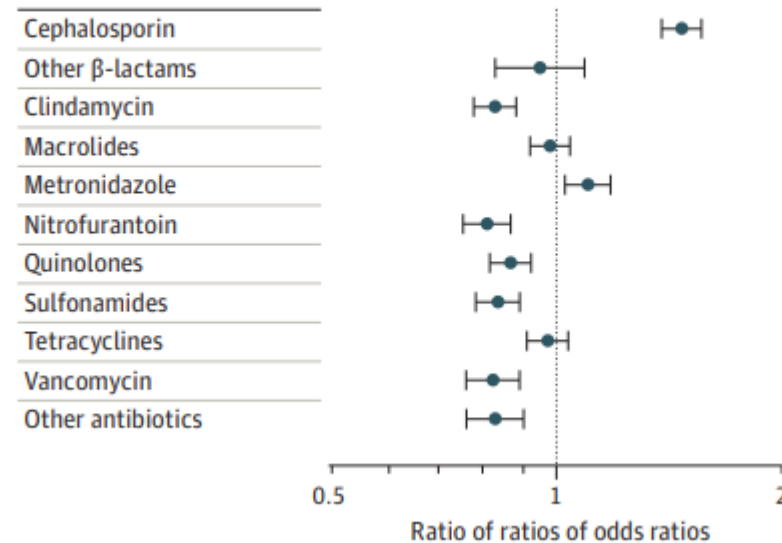


**INTERVENTIONS OR EXPOSURES** Oral or parenteral antibiotics dispensed or administered after removal of an EHR alert to avoid cephalosporin use in patients with a recorded penicillin allergy.

**No significant differences in anaphylaxis** (9 total cases), new allergies (RROR, 1.02; 95% CI, 0.93-1.12), or treatment failures (RROR, 1.02; 95% CI, 0.99-1.05) with courses used.

**No significant differences were found in all-cause mortality** (RRRR, 1.03; 95% CI, 0.94-1.13), hospital days (RRRR, 1.04; 95% CI, 0.99-1.10), and new infections at the patient level.

Figure. Multinomial Logistic Regression of Changes in Antibiotic Use Among Patients With Penicillin Allergies



# EPIC EMR Updates

- As of 11/15/2022 no longer trigger cross-reactivity alerts for penicillins and cephalosporins for most reaction types
  - Cross-reactivity alerts will **continue to trigger for anaphylaxis and anaphylactic shock** due to limitations of EMR - guidance is that alternative beta-lactam classes may still be administered
- Considerations should still be made for a non-beta-lactam alternative in the setting of a severe non-IgE-mediated reaction (i.e. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, serum sickness, etc.)



# CASE

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- You have a patient with anaphylaxis to penicillin after taking it 5 years ago. What is the next best step if they need a surgical prophylaxis?
  - A. Cefazolin**
  - B. A non-beta-lactam antibiotic
  - C. Refer to the Allergy Clinic for an amoxicillin oral challenge
  - D. Refer to the Allergy Clinic for penicillin skin testing

# UIHC Drug Allergy Clinic

Est. 2013

Evaluate Patients  
with Drug  
Allergies

Identifying True  
IgE-Mediated  
Reactions

Increase Use of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Line Antibiotic  
Prophylaxis and  
Treatment

**MONDAYS**

PharmD/MD or MD Only

**OTHER DAYS**

*Fellow and Faculty  
Clinics*

# Obstetrics BPA – June 2021

Important (1)

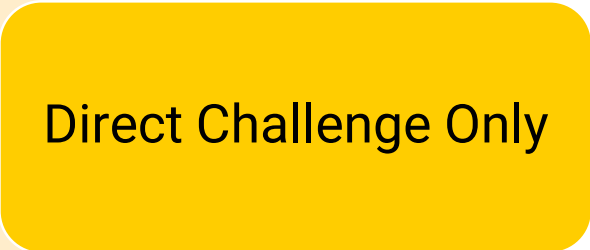
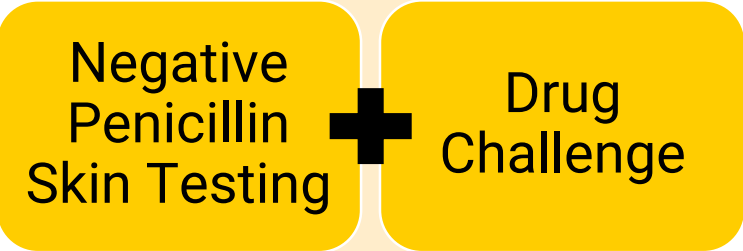
This patient has indicated an allergy to a **penicillin** medication. Please review the acknowledge reasons below for overriding the BPA. If the patient is included in the target population, place a consult to the Drug Allergy clinic. ( BPA-id # 5929 )

- **Target population** - a penicillin allergy history suggestive of an IgE-mediated reaction (anaphylaxis, angioedema, hives, hypotension, pruritic rash, and/or respiratory distress) OR it is an unknown reaction
- **Do not consult for these reasons** – history of non-allergy adverse effects (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or headache), family history of an allergy only, OR history of a severe delayed-onset skin reaction (skin sloughing, blisters, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, or toxic epidermal necrolysis)

[Consult to Drug Allergy Clinic](#)

Acknowledge Reason

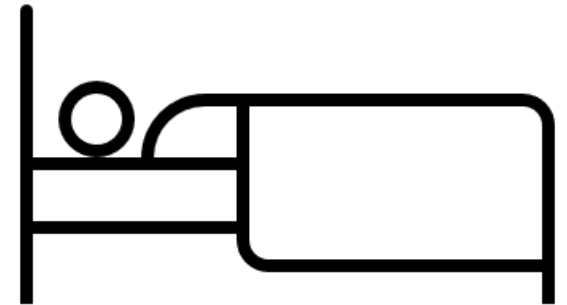
- No consult desired
- See Comments (must leave comment)
- Administrative/Quality/Compliance Char...
- Consulting Nurse - not part of care team





# Proactively Delabeling Inpatient Penicillin Allergy

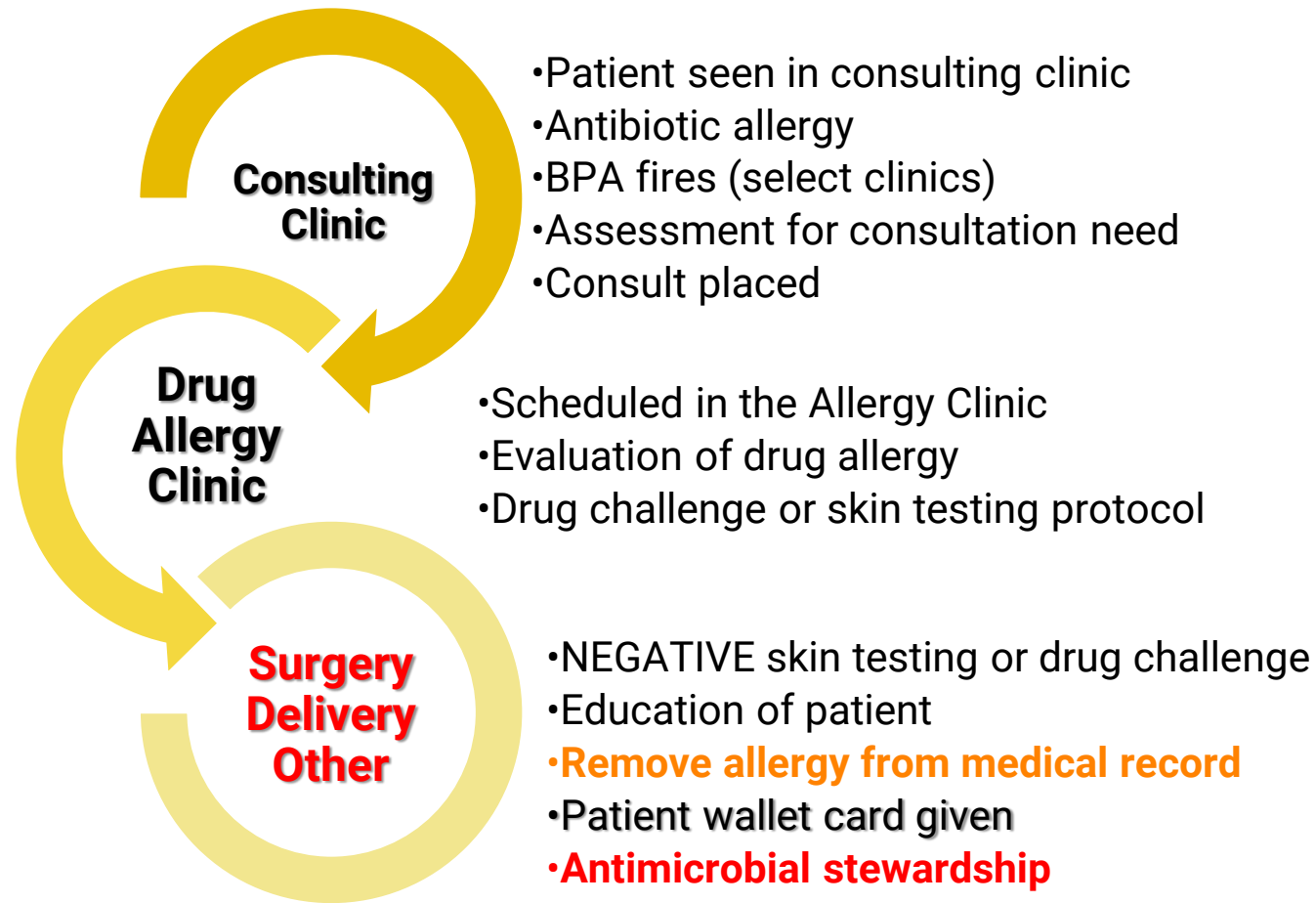
- **QI Project**
  - Oral challenging low risk hospitalized patients with penicillin allergy
  - Fellows (ID and AI) reaching out to teams for patients with penicillin label inpatient that qualify for delabeling
  - For hospitalists:
    - If qualified, fellows reach out and will page you to put orders in.
    - Order set #: 9753
  - Directions and information discussed with nurses before
- **SAFE PRACTICE** without issues in multiple studies and in this QI project



# QI Project Logistics



# Drug Allergy Clinic Consults



# Patient Education

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## Patient Consent

- Done for all patients undergoing a skin test or drug challenge

## Home Care Instructions

- All patients given instructions on drug allergy, skin testing and/or challenge

## Wallet Card

- Patients provided a wallet card documenting negative allergy status
- Help in informing other providers to REMOVE allergy
- Helps with re-labeling rates

# Wallet Cards

## PENICILLIN ALLERGY EVALUATION CARD

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

was evaluated at the **Drug Allergy Clinic**. Testing showed that you are **not allergic** to penicillin or a penicillin derivative.

Please contact the Drug Allergy Clinic at 319-356-8133 for more information or questions.



## DRUG ALLERGY EVALUATION CARD

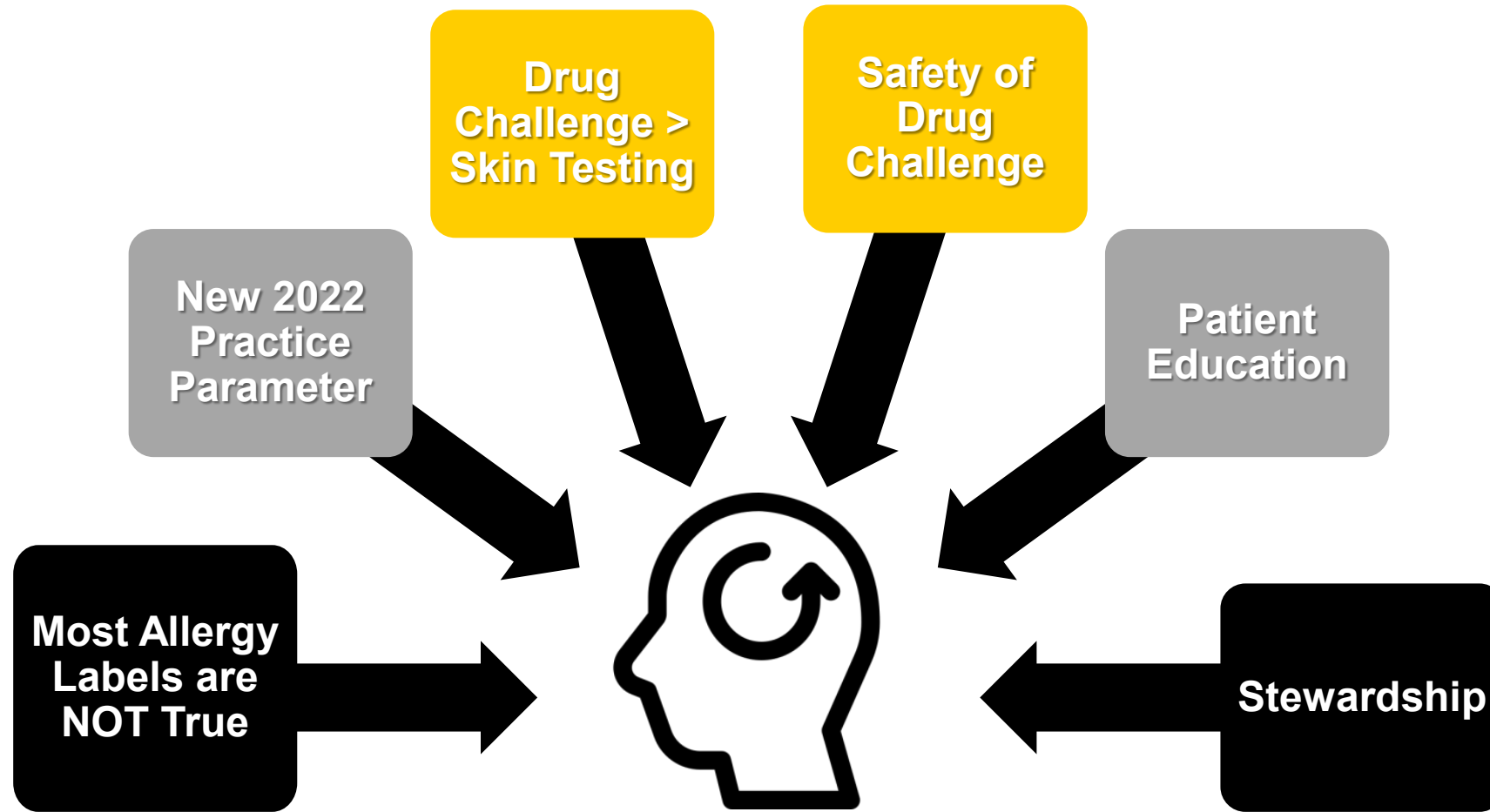
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

was evaluated at the **Drug Allergy Clinic**. Testing showed that you are **not allergic** to \_\_\_\_\_ .

Please contact the Drug Allergy Clinic at 319-356-8133 for more information or questions.



# Take Home Points



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# Questions?

→ [uihc.org](https://uihc.org)



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