



# The Penicillin Allergy Clinic

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Dear Internist,

As of September 2020, our clinic will begin testing patients in Winnipeg for true Penicillin/Amoxicillin allergy in an attempt to de-label all false allergies. Approximately 10% of patients report a Penicillin allergy of which 95% are false. This leads to unnecessary avoidance of Penicillin/Amoxicillin in place of more expensive broad-spectrum antibiotics. *Choosing Wisely recommends ALL patients with a Penicillin allergy be referred for testing [1].*

Our de-labelling process is incredibly safe and requires only a few hours of the patient's time. Our process allows us to de-label low risk patients which is the majority of patients who carry a Penicillin or Amoxicillin allergy label. Any patients we deem higher risk who are unable to be de-labelled at our clinic will be referred to an allergist for further management. We do not offer skin testing as the most recent studies and guidelines state that skin-prick and intra-dermal testing are not required for a majority of patients who are at low-risk for a Penicillin/Amoxicillin allergy. There are numerous benefits to you and your patients by removing their Penicillin/Amoxicillin allergy such as...

## **Benefits to Patients by Removing Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy**

- Reduced risk (55%) of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) [2]
- Reduced risk (35%) of *Clostridium difficile* infection [2]
- Reduced Vancomycin use [3]
- Reduced length of hospital stay [3]
- Reduced antimicrobial resistance [3]

## **Benefits to Healthcare System by Removing Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy**

- Average antibiotic costs per patient decreased from \$1,265.81 to \$592.08 USD, a 53% savings [4]
- Reduced antibiotic prescription costs from \$14-193 per patient [5]
- Inpatient costs savings were \$1145-\$4254 per patient when Penicillin allergy was removed [5]

To provide your patients the best possible care and reduce healthcare costs, **please fax a consult to 1-888-736-1743 addressed to the 'The Penicillin Allergy Clinic'.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Norm Silver, FRCPC  
Pediatrician/Emergency Physician

Dr. Taft Micks, CCFP(EM)  
Family/Emergency Physician

### **References**

1. Choosing Wisely. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. <https://www.choosingwisely.org/clinician-lists/american-academy-allergy-asthma-immunology-non-beta-lactam-antibiotics-penicillin-allergy/>
2. Blumental KG, Lu N, Zhang Y, et al. Risk of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Clostridium difficile* in patients with a documented penicillin allergy: population based matched cohort study. *BMJ* 2018;361:k2400
3. Jones BM, Bland CM. Penicillin skin testing as an antimicrobial stewardship initiative. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2017;74:232-7
4. Chen JR, Tarver SA, Alvarez KS, Wei W, Khan DA. Improving aztreonam stewardship and cost through a penicillin allergy testing clinical guideline. *Open Forum Infect Dis.* 2018 May 5;5(6)
5. Mattingly II TJ, Fulton A, Lumish RA, Williams AMC, Yoon SJ, Yuen M, et al. The Cost of Self-Reported Penicillin Allergy: A Systematic Review. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract* 2018;6:1649-54