



The Penicillin Allergy Clinic

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Dear Oncologist,

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. ***This type of allergy testing has shown to be safe in cancer patients [2].*** 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 Cancer Patients by Removing Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy

- Lower mortality, shorter hospital stays, lower re-admission rate in hospitalized hematological malignancy patients [3]
- Decrease number of alternative antibiotics used and reduced duration of antibiotics in hospitalized hematological malignancy patients [3]
- Significant increase in narrow-spectrum antibiotic use in febrile neutropenia [4]
- Lower risk of adverse events, multidrug-resistant organisms, *C. difficile* infections from use of more broad-spectrum antibiotics [5]

Benefits to Healthcare System by Removing Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy

- Lower overall hospital costs in hospitalized patients with hematological malignancies [3]
- Inpatient costs savings were \$1145-\$4254 per patient when Penicillin allergy was removed [6]

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

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6. 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)