



The Penicillin Allergy Clinic

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Dear Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons,

As of September 2020, our clinic will begin testing patients in Winnipeg for true Penicillin/Amoxicillin and Sulfa/Septra allergies 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 allergy 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 Dental Patients by Removing Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy

- ***Less adverse effects (fatal and non-fatal) for ALL dental patients requiring antibiotics*** by avoiding Clindamycin, Clarithromycin, and Metronidazole all of which are associated with more adverse drug reactions compared to Amoxicillin [2]
- Less adverse effects after invasive dental procedures requiring endocarditis prophylaxis by avoiding use of Clindamycin (which has higher fatal and non-fatal reactions compared to Amoxicillin as well as risk for *C.Diff*) [3]
- 50% reduced odds of surgical site infection [4]
- Reduced risk of *Clostridium difficile* (35%) and MRSA (55%) [5]

Benefits to Healthcare System by Removing Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy

- Inpatient costs savings were \$1145-\$4254 per patient when Penicillin allergy was removed [6]
- Average antibiotic costs per patient decreased from \$1,265.81 to \$592.08 USD, a 53% savings [7]

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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4. Blumental KG, Ryan EE, Yu L, Lee H, Kuhlen Jr. JL, Shenoy ES. The impact of a Reported Penicillin Allergy on Surgical Site Infection Risk. Clin Infect Dis. 2018 Jan 18;66(3):329-336.
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7. Chen JK, 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)