



CLARIFYING PENICILLIN ALLERGIES ALLERGY INTERVIEWS, SKIN TESTING AND DELABELING

Online Pharmacy Continuing Education for Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians

1 Contact Hour of Home Study Pharmacy CE credit (0.1 CEU)

Speaker:*

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*Speaker has no relevant conflicts of interests to disclose.

STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL NEED

Penicillin allergies are the most commonly reported medication allergy in the United States. Having a penicillin allergy label has been associated with a multitude of negative health consequences. In many cases, the patient's allergy may be reported, but with no reaction details or clarifying information. As a result, penicillin allergy labels often persist in the medical record when the patient may not actually be allergic, or may be able to tolerate a beta-lactam antibiotic. Due to the potential impact of inaccurate drug allergy reporting and documentation on patient care, the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) recently published guidelines that call for the inclusion of allergy assessments as part of antimicrobial stewardship programs. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can help clarify penicillin allergies for patients by performing allergy questionnaires, skin testing, and making antimicrobial recommendations. Accurate allergy documentation helps to ensure that patients receive optimal antimicrobial therapy, minimize adverse reactions, and improve patient health. The purpose of this activity is to educate pharmacists and technicians on how to appropriately clarify penicillin allergies.

References:

- Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters; American Academy of Allergy; Asthma and Immunology; American College of Allergy; Asthma and Immunology; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Drug allergy: An updated practice parameter. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2010;105:259–273.
- Barlam, TF, et al. Implementing an antibiotic stewardship program: Guidelines by the infectious diseases society of America and the society for healthcare epidemiology of America. *Clin Infect Dis.* 2016;62:e51–e77.
- Charneski, L, Deshpande, G, Smith, SW. Impact of an antimicrobial allergy label in the medical record on clinical outcomes in hospitalized patients. *Pharmacotherapy* 2011;31:742–747.

Session Objectives for Pharmacists:

- Explain the “side chain theory” of antibiotic cross-reactivity.
- Practice performing an antibiotic allergy interview.
- Review the process, benefits and limitations of penicillin skin testing.
- Explain the importance of “delabeling” penicillin allergies to prevent negative consequences.

Session Objectives for Pharmacy Technicians:

- List potential health consequences for patients labeled with a penicillin allergy.
- Practice performing an antibiotic allergy interview.

- Review the process and materials required for penicillin skin testing

This is a knowledge-based CPE activity and appropriate for all pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. To receive credit, participants must complete a pre-survey and post-survey, watch all video modules, and complete a speaker evaluation survey. A voluntary 8-week follow up survey will also be e-mailed to participants.

Survey data collected from this CPE activity will be used for research purposes by investigators at the Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy. The purpose of the research project is to assess pharmacist and pharmacy technician knowledge and perceptions related to penicillin allergies before and after participation in a home-study CE program. This study has been IRB approved at Samford University (EXMP-P-19-SUM-11), and the approval letter has been published within the home-study course. Survey responses will be de-identified (NABP number, e-mail address, and zip code will not be linked to survey responses for data analysis). Participants not wishing to participate in the study may opt out of the CPE program at any time.

Credit will be sent electronically through CPE Monitor within 30 days following the program. NABP e-Profile ID# and Date of Birth (mmdd) required.

There is no cost associated with completion of this CPE activity.

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