

Use office letterhead

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Dear Dr. <LastName>,

When a patient is labeled “Penicillin Allergic,” it creates problems for both the physician and the patient. The physician is often faced with trying to find a second choice alternative antibiotic. Penicillin allergies can be tricky to confirm, as some adverse reactions to penicillin can be confused for an allergic reaction. Additionally, many people with a history of allergic reactions to this medication frequently experience a decrease in their sensitivity over time. How do you handle your patients who report an allergy to penicillin?

The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) has developed a recommended protocol that can help these patients. As board-certified allergists, we have a simple skin testing protocol that can be completed in our office to confirm if your patient has a true penicillin allergy. After carefully reviewing your patients’ medical history, we will perform a skin testing and, if negative, administer an oral challenge using amoxicillin. We will observe your patient to guarantee that it is safe for them to take this medication. You will receive a follow-up letter indicating the results of the testing procedure. We know that over **90% of people who report they have an allergy to penicillin will test negative.**

This testing procedure can help prevent non-allergic patients from being prescribed an alternative antibiotic that may be less effective, have more severe side effects or be more expensive. We can put your patient at ease so they can know, without a doubt, which medications are safe for them to take. If you would like more detailed information to provide to your patients about penicillin allergy, we have developed three useful patient handouts:

1. “Penicillin allergy: Facts for patients”
2. “Why can’t I just avoid penicillin? “
3. “Frequently asked Questions and Answers about Penicillin Allergy.”

We are happy to provide these to your office, or they can be downloaded directly from our website at

Please consider referring your patients who carry the label “penicillin allergic” to our office for testing. Determining with certainty if they are penicillin allergic will help you manage their medical problems and will help your patients feel they are in charge of their health care. Working together we can help you and your patient make the right decision about their medication needs.

Sincerely,

Your name  
Your contact info