

**Clinical Standardization** 

# PENICILLIN AND CEPHALOSPORIN ALLERGY, INPATIENT, ADULT AND PEDIATRIC

Updated: June 9, 2023

# **Clinical Pathway Summary**

CLINICAL PATHWAY NAME: Penicillin and Cephalosporin Allergy, Inpatient, Adult and Pediatric

## PATIENT POPULATION AND DIAGNOSIS:

1. Classifying and assessing risk in patients with a listed adverse reaction or allergy to penicillins and cephalosporins

2. Ordering antibiotics in a hospitalized patient with a history of adverse reaction or allergy to penicillins and cephalosporins

## APPLICABLE TO: All Corewell Health Inpatient Hospitals

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** This guideline was developed to help guide providers in their antibiotic choices and consultation of specialty services when appropriate.

Approximately 95% of patients who report a penicillin allergy do not have a true Type I immediatehypersensitivity (IgE-mediated) allergy to penicillin. Identifying these patients can improve patient care through use of more effective, less costly, and safer antibiotics. For the most part, there is very little cross-reactivity between cephalosporins and penicillins. Early data after cephalosporins were first developed cited a crossreactivity of 10-20% in patients with penicillin allergy, but those drugs were contaminated with trace amounts of penicillin. The true rate of cross-reactivity is much lower and depends on common side chains (usually the "R1 side chain") between the penicillin/aminopenicillin and cephalosporins rather than the common beta-lactam ring. Conversely, with Type I hypersensitivity reactions to penicillins, IgE is typically specific to the beta-lactam ring or a penicillin antibiotics, including aminopenicillins. Patients with a penicillin allergy do not need to empirically avoid cephalosporins. Additionally, allergy to one cephalosporin does NOT mean that ALL cephalosporins need to be avoided. Rather, avoiding cephalosporins with similar or identical side chain structures is recommended.

## **OPTIMIZED EPIC ELEMENTS (if applicable):**

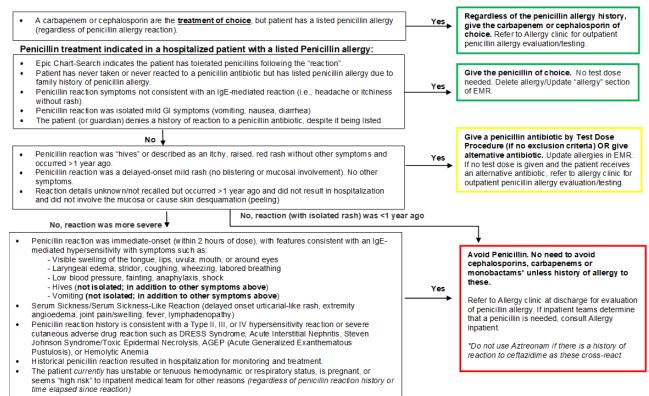
- Direct Amoxicillin Oral Challenge Orderset (Penicillin Allergy Oral Challenge)
- Direct Amoxicillin Oral Challenge ProcDoc (<u>CPT Coding Reference Sheet</u>)

## **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** June 20, 2022

LAST REVISED: January 26, 2024

# **Clinical Algorithms:**

#### Penicillin Allergy Inpatient Algorithm



#### Cephalolosporin Allergy Inpatient Algorithm

Part I. Patient has a listed cephalosporin allergy, and the antibiotic treatment of choice is a:

A. Carbapenem Yes	Give the carbapenem of cho evaluate cephalosporin aller		of cephalosporin reaction. Refer to Allergy clinic to	
B. Penicillin Yes	Give penicillin of choice (if no allergy to penicillin in the chart), regardless of cephalosporin reaction. No need to avoid penicillin due to cephalosporin allergy.			
C. Cephalosporin Yes	Determine 1) which cephalosporin(s) caused the historical reaction and 2) which cephalosporin is indicated for current treatment. Go to Part II.			
Part II. Cephalosporin treatment indicated in a hospitalized patient with a listed cephalosporin allergy:				
<ul> <li>Patient has never taken or never reacted to the cephalosporin and denies history of reaction</li> <li>Reaction was isolated mild GI symptoms (vomiting, nausea, diarrhea).</li> <li>Reaction was a delayed-onset (day 3 of course or later) mild rash without other symptoms.</li> </ul>		Yes	Give the desired cephalosporin at full-strength dose. Update "allergies" in EMR.	
No • Reaction was isolated to skin involvement (no other symptoms) wit or other rash without mucosal involvement or skin desquamation. • Reaction details largely unknown/not recalled but did not result in h		Yes →	Cephalosporins with similar/identical side chains may cross-react. <b>Okay to give full-strength dose</b> of a cephalosporin from a group that <b>does not cross-react</b> with the cephalosporin of concern (see Table 1). Avoid the cephalosporin associated with a reaction and others that cross-react and refer to allergy clinic to address this after hospital discharge.	
<ul> <li>Cephalosporin reaction was immediate-onset (within 2 hours of dose), with features consistent with an IgE-mediated hypersensitivity:         <ul> <li>Visible swelling of the tongue, lips, uvula, mouth, or eyes</li> <li>Laryngeal edema, stridor, coughing, wheezing, labored breathing</li> <li>Low blood pressure, fainting, anaphylaxis, shock</li> <li>Hives (not isolated; in addition to other symptoms above)</li> <li>Vomiting (not isolated; in addition to other symptoms above)</li> </ul> </li> <li>The patient <i>currently</i> has unstable or tenuous hemodynamic or respiratory status, is pregnant, or seems "high risk" to inpatient medical team for other reasons (<i>regardless of cephalosporin reaction history or time elapsed since reaction.</i>)</li> </ul>		Yes	If the desired treatment cephalosporin does not cross- react with the cephalosporin listed as an allergy, may give full strength dose of the desired cephalosporin or give acceptable alternative. If there is cross- reactivity and no acceptable alternative, formally consult Allergy.	
<ul> <li>Cephalosporin reaction history is consistent with a Type II, III, or IV severe cutaneous adverse drug reaction such as DRESS Syndrom Nephritis, Steven Johnson Syndrome/Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, I Cytopenias, or AGEP (Acute Generalized Exanthematous Pustulos)</li> </ul>	ie, Acute Interstitial Hemolytic Anemia or	Yes	Avoid using cephalosporins. Use alternative drug with appropriate antimicrobial coverage. If there is a very strong clinical indication for use of a cephalosporin, involve Allergy and ID.	

# **Clinical Pathways Clinical Approach**

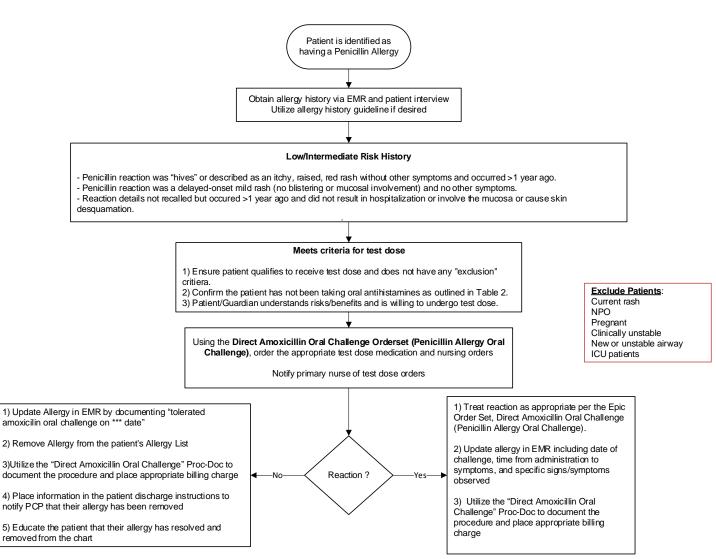
## TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT:

Table 1. Cephalosporin Drugs with Identical or Similar R1 Side-Chain Structures

- 1. Find the cephalosporin(s) the patient reacted to in the table below. Avoid this cephalosporin and any others in that same box.
- 2. Okay to give full strength dose of a cephalosporin in a different box (one that does not cross-react).

	Cephalosporin (generation)
	Cephalexin (1 <sup>st</sup> ) Cefadroxil( 1 <sup>st</sup> ) Cefprozil (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) Cefaclor (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
Cephalosporins that have the same or similar R1 or R2 side chain and could cross-react	Cefuroxime (2 <sup>nd</sup> )
	Cefdinir (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Cefixime (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
	Cefixime (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Cefditoren (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Cefpodoxime (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Cefotaxime (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Ceftriaxone (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Ceftazidime (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Ceftapime (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Cephalosporins that do not cross-react with any other cephalosporins used in the United States	Cefazolin (1 <sup>st</sup> )
(If reacted to one of these, only need to avoid the one associated with the reaction)	Ceftibuten (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) Ceftaroline (5 <sup>th</sup> )
	Ceftolozane (5 <sup>th</sup> )

### Penicillin Test Dose Algorithm



#### Penicillin Test Dose Procedure:

- 1. Obtain consent. Discuss the risks, benefits, and alternative treatments with the patient.
- 2. Confirm no exclusion criteria are present.
- 3. Place orders using the "Pediatric/Adult Direct Amoxicillin Challenge (Penicillin Allergy Oral Challenge)"
  - a. Nursing:
    - i. Vital signs every 30 minutes starting before dose and every 30 minutes for 90 minutes following dose.
    - ii. Notify provider of hypersensitivity reaction per the order set (see signs/symptoms in order)
    - iii. Nursing to assess for allergic reaction every 30 minutes until 90 minutes after the dose.
  - b. Hypersensitivity Medications:
    - i. Ensure prn medications to treat a hypersensitivity reaction are checked: both diphenhydramine and epinephrine + IV fluid bolus
  - c. Amoxicillin Direct Oral Challenge Dose:
    - i. Order the amoxicillin single dose for the challenge (250 mg)
- 4. If no signs/symptoms of allergy/hypersensitivity reaction 90 minutes following the dose of amoxicillin, delete the allergy from "Allergy" section of the chart and from the problem list, if applicable. Inform the patient that the allergy will be removed from their chart, and they make take penicillin antibiotics going forward.
- 5. Document the procedure via the Penicillin Test Dose ProcDoc.

Table 2. Medications to avoid prior to amoxicillin test dose

These antihistamines should   Stop these antihistamines at least 3 days   Medications that should be				
be stopped 5 days prior to	prior to test dose	CONTINUED (no need to stop if		
test dose	•	taking)		
<ul> <li>Cetirizine (Zyrtec)</li> <li>Fexofenadine (Allegra)</li> <li>Loratadine (Claritin)</li> <li>Desloratadine (Clarinex)</li> <li>Levocetirizine (Xyzal)</li> <li>Cyproheptadine (Periactin)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)</li> <li>Chlorpheniramine (Chlortrimeton)</li> <li>Promethazine (Phenergan)</li> <li>Pyrilamine (Pyril/Midol)</li> <li>Phenyltoloxamine (Tussionex)</li> <li>Clemastine (Tavist)</li> <li>Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)</li> <li>Dimetapp</li> <li>Doxylamine (Nyquil, Unisom)</li> <li>Dura-Tab</li> <li>Meclizine (Antivert)</li> <li>Azelastine nasal spray (Astelin/Dymista)</li> <li>Olopatadine eye drops (Patanase/Patanol/Pataday)</li> <li>Pheniramine eye drops (Visine- A/Opcon-A)</li> <li>Other "allergy meds" not listed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Steroid nose sprays (Flonase/Nasonex/Rhinocort)</li> <li>Oral corticosteroids (prednisone)</li> <li><u>All asthma inhalers</u></li> <li>Montelukast (Singulair)</li> <li>Zafirlukast</li> <li>Zileuton/Zyflo</li> <li>Antidepressants</li> </ul>		

### **Beta-Lactam Allergy History Tool**

Obtain a history about the reaction from the patient/family, supplementing with information from pharmacy records and chart review (notes) when applicable. Document a summary of the allergy history in the Patient Allergies section of EPIC. The following questions may be utilized as a tool to guide history-taking and documentation regarding the reaction.

- 1. Beta-lactam antibiotic associated with reaction:
- 2. Previous use of this antibiotic prior to the course that caused a reaction: Yes/No
- 3. Time since beta-lactam antibiotic reaction:
  - a. Less than 1 year
  - b. 1-10 years
  - c. <a>>10 years</a>
  - d. Unknown

#### 4. Timing of reaction:

- a. First day of treatment course, immediately after first dose (within \_\_ hours)
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> day but several hours after a dose
- c. 3 or more days into the course
- d. After treatment was complete
- e. Unknown
- 5. Where was treatment provided for the historical beta-lactam antibiotic reaction?:
  - a. Caregiver/parent without medical attention
  - b. PCP
  - c. Urgent Care/Emergency Room
  - d. Hospitalization

- e. Other
- f. Reaction occurred during a hospitalization
- 6. Treatment for historical reaction included:
  - a. None/beta-lactam antibiotic was continued
  - b. Beta-lactam antibiotic discontinued
  - c. Antihistamines
  - d. Epinephrine
  - e. IV fluids
  - f. Systemic Steroids
  - g. Other or Unknown
- 7. What were the symptoms that provoked concern this was a reaction to the medication?
- 8. Are symptoms consistent with IgE-mediated/Type 1 hypersensitivity reaction?:
  - a. Urticaria (hives): Raised, red, itchy rash, with each individual skin lesion typically lasting <24 hours
  - b. Angioedema (swelling): laryngeal edema or visible swelling of the tongue, lips, mouth, face
  - c. Bronchospasm: wheezing, coughing, shortness of breath, labored breathing, low O2 sat
  - d. Hemodynamic instability: Low blood pressure, fainting, anaphylactic shock
- 9. Did the reaction include any of the following (Type II, III, and IV hypersensitivity reactions)?
  - a. Ulcers/sores/blisters of the mouth, lips, or eyes
  - b. Skin peeling/falling off
  - c. Abnormal kidney or liver function or significant eosinophilia
  - d. Swollen and/or painful joints
  - e. Low cell counts, bleeding, need for transfusion (cytopenias), hemolytic anemia (i.e., Zosyn)

# **Pathway Information**

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## EXPERT IMPROVEMENT TEAM (EIT): N/A

CLINICAL PRACTICE COUNCIL (CPC): Specialty Health

CPC APPROVAL DATE: June 20, 2022

**OTHER TEAM(S) IMPACTED:** Hospitalists, Infectious Disease, Nursing, Pharmacy, Allergy, Pediatrics

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