



# PENICILLIN ALLERGY FACTS

## **01** Have you ever been told that you have “penicillin allergy”?

Penicillin allergy may present as immediate type reactions (examples: anaphylaxis, acute urticaria) and delayed type reactions (examples: maculopapular rashes, SJS, TEN, etc).

## **02** But do you know that 90% of patients claiming to be penicillin allergic DO NOT have the true allergy after complete evaluation?

The true prevalence rate of penicillin allergy is only 5-10% among reported drug allergy cases.

## **03** Is penicillin allergy a lifelong condition?

Approximately 80% of patients with a history of a true penicillin allergy lose their sensitivity after 10 years.

## **04** What is the burden of a penicillin allergy label?

Patients with a history of penicillin allergy are more likely to be treated with alternative antibiotic regimens that are associated with higher healthcare costs, increased risk for antibiotic resistance, and suboptimal medical care.

Therefore, removal of the penicillin allergy label leads to improved antibiotic selection with decreased use of broad-spectrum antibiotics.

## **05** What is the role of penicillin allergy evaluation?

Penicillin allergy evaluation is a cost-saving intervention that accurately identifies approximately 9 of 10 patients who can receive penicillin without an allergic reaction.

**If unsure of your diagnosis, have yourself evaluated today by a board-certified allergist.**

#### References:

1. Khan DA, et al. Drug allergy: A 2022 practice parameter update. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2022 Dec;150(6):1333-1393.
2. Covington E, et al. Strategies for Clarifying Penicillin Allergies When Skin Testing Is Not an Option. Pharmacy (Basel). 2019 Jun 19;7(2):69.
3. American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. Penicillin Allergy Evaluation Should Be Performed Proactively in Patients with a Penicillin Allergy Label - A Position Statement of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. 2023, Accessed from: <https://www.aaaai.org/>