

Do you have a penicillin allergy?

Penicillin is a type of medicine that fights infections and is known to be very effective and safe. Penicillin allergy is the most common medicine allergy reported by patients.

More than 9 out of 10 people (90%) who think they are allergic to penicillin are NOT TRULY ALLERGIC and can safely take penicillin.





Here's what to know about penicillin allergies:



They go away over time, usually in 5-10 years.



Side effects from penicillin are often mistaken for allergies. See below for the difference:

SIDE EFFECTS

VS

ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Side effects are caused by the drug and usually appear after a few doses or days.

An allergic reaction happens when your immune system reacts to the drug, usually within 1-2 hours after taking the first dose.



Why are so many people incorrectly identified as penicillin allergic on their health record?





The patient reports a history of penicillin allergy to their doctor.



OR

The patient reports an adverse reaction while on penicillin treatment.



The healthcare team notes the reaction or history as a penicillin allergy.



The penicillin allergy label stays in the health record even after the allergy goes away.

Having a penicillin allergy noted in your health record can cause significant problems when antibiotics are needed:

- 1. Patients receive other antibiotics instead of penicillins that won't work as well to cure infections.
- 2. Patients have more adverse side effects when other antibiotics are used instead of penicillins.
- Patients are more likely to have antibiotic resistant bacteria when other antibiotics are used making it harder to treat infections in the future.

Let's make sure your health records are correct so you can get the best care possible!

Penicillin allergy labels are safe and easy to remove by a doctor!

See below for the Penicillin Allergy Delabeling Process:

1



2



- The healthcare provider will review medications previously taken and ask questions about the reaction and when it happened.
- Many patients have the allergy label removed after this check.
- To confirm that there is no penicillin allergy, the healthcare provider may give one or two doses of penicillin at their office or facility and observe for any reaction over one hour.
- This process is safe.

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- If no penicillin allergy is found, the allergy label will be removed from the health record.
- Patients should keep a copy of the results to show their providers.