

UNC Pediatric Allergy Medication Skin Testing and Oral Challenge Information

Please read this letter carefully in preparation for your child's upcoming challenge appointment.

Before the appointment

- Please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes early to ensure the testing can begin on time
- Please stop all antihistamines 5-7 days prior to the appointment
- Your child must be free from fever, wheezing, or other significant illness
- Please plan for the appointment to take roughly 2-3 hours

What to bring to the appointment

- The medication to be testing **if anything other than** Amoxicillin/Penicillin. If the medication is a prescription medication, be sure to pick it up from the pharmacy a day or two before the challenge appointment. Please give the medication to the allergy nurse when she checks your child in on the day of the appointment.
- Water and snacks for after the challenge (optional)
- Toys/activities for entertainment

Penicillin Testing – What To Expect

PRE-PEN is the only FDA approved skin test for the diagnosis of penicillin allergy. PRE-PEN is administered through both scratch and intradermal testing and quickly identifies patients who can safely receive penicillin.

Testing can be temporarily uncomfortable because five (5) needles are used for the intradermal portion. It is important your child be as still as possible during this step so they are not hurt.

It is estimated that penicillin allergy is overstated due to non-confirmed, self-reported patient history. Approximately 85% of patients who describe themselves as penicillin allergic will have negative skin tests and can safely receive penicillin and related antibiotics.

Testing agents:

- Pre-Pen
- PCN-G
- Histamine
- Negative control

1. Skin scratch tests are done with all 4 agents – if after 15-20 minutes there are no bumps/blebs where the skin test were placed (except for histamine which should leave a temporary bump/bleb) you can move on to Step 2.

2. Five (5) Intradermal injections (just under the top layers of skin to create a bubble under the skin) –

- a. Two (2) Pre-Pen
- b. Two (2) PCN-G
- c. One (1) Negative control

If no bumps/blebs after 15-20 minutes move to Step 3

3. One tenth of a dose of Amoxicillin orally – (sometimes the entire dose is given)

If no signs of a reaction, move to Step 4

4. Remainder of Amoxicillin orally (9/10th)

5. Remain in clinic for one hour following last Amoxicillin dose

Questions about billing for challenges

To help avoid unexpected surprises, it may be helpful to check with your insurance company to find out what will be covered by them for your child's challenge procedure. The CPT codes your insurance company may ask you for are: 95076 (first 2 hours of the appointment) and 95079 (each additional hour). You may also contact our clinic financial counselors at 984-974-9968 or 984-974-9972.

If you need to cancel or reschedule your challenge appointment, or have any questions, please contact our office at 919-962-5136.