**Penicillin Allergy**

- Documented anaphylaxis ≤ 10 yrs ago
  - **1st generation cephalosporin**
    - PO formulation
    - Patient not in monitored setting
      - Contact prescriber for orders to begin monitoring or change therapy
    - Patient in monitored setting
      - Monitor patient for 1 hour after dose
  - IV formulation
  - Monitor patient for 1 hour after dose

- **2nd or 3rd generation cephalosporin**
  - Administer as ordered

- **Carbapenem**

- Any other reaction
  - Any cephalosporin
  - Carbapenem
  - Administer as ordered

- **Penicillin necessary for therapy**
  - Questionable anaphylaxis
    - > 3 yrs ago
    - Desensitize
    - Penicillin skin testing
    - If unavailable, desensitize
  - Documented anaphylaxis
    - < 20 yrs ago
    - Urgent situations
    - Desensitize if history of anaphylaxis
    - Penicillin skin testing followed by oral challenge test

- **Amoxicillin/ampicillin allergy**
  - Non-urgent situations
  - Penicillin skin testing followed by oral challenge test

**Cephalosporin Allergy**

- Use side chain table to assess risk of cross-allergenicity (see next page)
- Do not assume allergy to entire class or generation

**Exclusion:** never attempt graded challenge or desensitization if the patient has a history of life-threatening non-IgE mediated hypersensitivity reaction to penicillin, such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, exfoliative dermatitis, papillary necrosis, penicillin-induced hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia, drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), or hepatitis.

*Updated by Serena Von Ruden, PharmD*

*Approved by Joint PT&T*

*Last Revision Date February 2013*
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