

# PENICILLIN ALLERGY

Document drug allergies on the cardex and the admission booklet.  
Include the name of the drug and the nature of the adverse reaction.  
Ensure all new allergies are documented on cardex and notified on discharge.

**CONTRA-  
INDICATED**

## TRUE/SEVERE PENICILLIN ALLERGY

**Definition:** anaphylaxis, urticaria or rash immediately after penicillin administration.

**ALL penicillins, cephalosporins and other beta-lactam antibiotics are contra-indicated.**

### Antibiotics **contra-indicated** in True/Severe penicillin allergy

Amoxicillin	Penicillin V ( <i>phenoxymethylpenicillin</i> )
Benzylpenicillin	Piperacillin/Tazobactam ( <i>Tazocin</i> ®)
Co-amoxiclav ( <i>Augmentin</i> ®)	Pivmecillinam
Flucloxacillin	Temocillin

**1st generation Cephalosporins:** Cefalexin

**2nd generation Cephalosporins:** Cefotaxime, Ceftazidime, Ceftriaxone, Cefuroxime

**Other beta-lactam antibiotics:** Aztreonam, Ertapenem, Imipenem, Meropenem

**CAUTION**

## NON SEVERE ALLERGY/INTOLERANCE TO PENICILLINS

**Definition:** minor rash/rash occurring >72 hours after administration or gastrointestinal upset.

### Antibiotics to be **used with caution** in non-severe penicillin allergy

2nd & 3rd generation Cephalosporins:  
Cefotaxime, Ceftazidime, Ceftriaxone, Cefuroxime

Other beta-lactam antibiotics:  
Aztreonam, Ertapenem, Imipenem, Meropenem

**Note:** In patients with non severe allergy/intolerance, penicillins and related antibiotics should not be withheld unnecessarily in SEVERE INFECTION but the patient must be monitored closely after administration.

**CONSIDERED  
SAFE**

### Antibiotics **safe** in any penicillin allergy (not an exhaustive list)

Amikacin	Doxycycline	Rifampicin
Azithromycin	Erythromycin	Sodium Fusidate
Clarithromycin	Gentamicin	Teicoplanin
Ciprofloxacin	Levofloxacin	Tetracycline
Clindamycin	Linezolid	Tigecycline
Colistin	Metronidazole	Tobramycin
Co-trimoxazole	Nitrofurantoin	Trimethoprim
Daptomycin	Ofloxacin	Vancomycin