

What is Antibiotic Challenge Testing?

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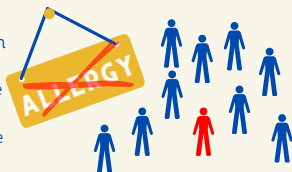
How did I get here?



A healthcare provider involved in your child's care has decided the child in your care is a good candidate to have **Allergy Challenge Testing (ACT)** done to see if they are truly allergic to penicillin or other medications in the same drug class (amoxicillin, Augmentin (amoxicillin/clavulanate)).

Importance of Delabeling

Why is there a whole clinic for this? One out of ten Americans believe they are allergic to penicillin while only one out of one hundred Americans are truly allergic. If someone is wrongly labeled as allergic, it can lead to more serious sickness, more time in the hospital, and higher medical bills.



Is it safe?



It is common to feel unsure about the testing because the child in your care likely had a reaction sometime in the past. We have a provider and a nurse outside the room for the entire duration of the testing. We also keep lifesaving (reaction stopping) medicines like epinephrine and Benadryl at the bedside for the duration of each challenge test. We know most dangerous, type 1 hypersensitivity reactions like anaphylaxis happen in the first 10 minutes, so our longer observation time is meant to ensure no serious, or delayed reactions occur.

Your child completed the ACT...What Now?

Provider to select one:

Your Child DOES NOT have a penicillin allergy

Your child has not reacted to the testing they received today and has been successfully delabeled from their allergy profile. It is safe for your child to take antibiotics like penicillin, amoxicillin) if needed for future infections.

FYI:

We have removed the allergy label from the Children's Mercy system and will inform your child's primary healthcare provider as well. If other offices, hospitals, or pharmacies still have the allergy in their records, you can say:

"My child has participated in Drug Allergy Testing/Antibiotic Challenge Testing at the Children's Mercy Clinic. I would like to ensure their record is updated to accurately reflect that they are not allergic to penicillin."

Your Child DOES have a penicillin allergy

Your child has reacted in some way to the testing they received today, and our providers have determined that they likely have a true allergy. They should continue to avoid antibiotics like penicillin, amoxicillin as they are at risk for further reactions if they were to receive them in the future.

Differentiating: Allergy v Side Effect*

Allergy

- Difficulty breathing/Wheezing
- Swelling of face/throat/extremities
- Profuse vomiting
- Dizziness/Feeling Lightheaded
- Loss of Consciousness
- Rash with Hives (Intensely Itchy/Come and Go)



Side Effect

- Mild nausea & diarrhea
- Headache
- Rash (flat, blotchy, and spread but do not change by the hour)