

# Partner with PDPH on Penicillin Allergy Delabeling in Long-Term Care

An antibiotic stewardship quality improvement initiative



Department of  
**Public Health**  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

## What Is Penicillin Allergy Delabeling?

- The process of performing an evaluation to identify and remove an inaccurate penicillin allergy label from a person's medical record
- Increasingly recommended as a critical component of antibiotic stewardship and can lead to improved health outcomes among long-term care residents<sup>1</sup>

Nearly 1 in 4 long-term care residents carry a penicillin allergy label<sup>2</sup>



90% of individuals who believe they are allergic to penicillin are not truly allergic when evaluated<sup>3-5</sup>

**Penicillin allergy labels are associated with adverse outcomes<sup>1,6</sup>:**



- Being treated with more toxic, less effective antibiotics
- Increased risk of *C. difficile* infection
- Longer hospital stays
- Higher rates of infection with drug-resistant organisms

## Can Penicillin Allergy Delabeling Be Performed in Long-term Care?

Yes. About **20% of individuals who believe they are allergic to penicillin can safely be delabeled based on medical history alone<sup>2</sup>**. Some individuals may require allergy testing by a specialist.

PDPH has made **practical resources** available to support medical history-based delabeling in long-term care facilities:

- ✓ **Penicillin Allergy Evaluation SBAR**
- ✓ **Educational Handout for Residents**



See details for how to access these tools on the following page.

## Why Partner with PDPH on Penicillin Allergy Delabeling?

PDPH invites long-term care facilities interested in initiating a penicillin allergy delabeling program to share their delabeling data with us.



Receive **customized reports** analyzing the impact of your penicillin allergy delabeling program, supporting your facility's **documentation of participation in an Antibiotic Stewardship QAPI for CMS surveyors**.



Receive **practical support** in addressing logistical challenges and **contribute to our understanding** of the feasibility and impact of penicillin allergy delabeling programs in long-term care settings.



**Interested in learning more? E-mail [HAI.PDPH@PHILA.GOV](mailto:HAI.PDPH@PHILA.GOV)**

## Resources

### ✓ Penicillin Allergy Evaluation SBAR

- Contains a user-friendly algorithm to evaluate a resident's eligibility for delabeling based on medical history alone
- Designed to facilitate communication among the clinical team and be integrated into the resident's medical record
- Intended to be administered by a pharmacist or nurse and reviewed by a physician



*bit.ly/pcn-delabel-sbar*

### ✓ Educational Handout for Long-term Care Residents

- A large-text, one-page flier explaining penicillin allergy delabeling in easy-to-understand terms



*bit.ly/pcn-allergy-edu*

## References

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