SSHP Penicillin Allergy Educational Task Force
“Are You Truly Allergic to Penicillin?”
University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy

Objectives
• Increase awareness of true penicillin allergies in the community to provide more effective patient therapy, increase health-care savings, and decrease antibiotic resistance
• Encourage members of the public to investigate their own allergies, with the help of pharmacists or healthcare providers, through the use of medication reviews and allergy assessments
• Highlight potential options such as penicillin allergy skin testing or challenge dosing if appropriate and available

Plan
• Organized an informational booth at Soda City Market in Columbia, SC
• Created an educational handout utilizing the resources listed below
• Housed the handout on our college’s website to make the handout more accessible
• Created business cards with the question, “Are you truly allergic to penicillin?” with a QR code to the online version of our handout
• Created and showcased a trifold with penicillin allergy statistics and information
• Advertised our event through the college’s and chapter’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Outcomes
• Members of the task force were able to speak with 71 market attendees about true penicillin allergies.
• The task force de-labeled two penicillin allergies on the street through verbal medication history reviews. Both patients had previously taken and tolerated Augmentin, not realizing it was a combination drug containing a penicillin antibiotic.
• We referred 4 people to a provider for possible penicillin skin allergy testing, as many people lose their sensitivity over the years.
• The task force provided educational materials to other healthcare providers in attendance, such as a nurse practitioner, to take back to their patients.
• Our SSHP members were provided the opportunity to improve upon their patient education and interaction skills.

What You Can Do
Assemble a Penicillin Allergy Educational Task Force within your own SSHP
• Using the resources provided educate your team on the topic
Collect Informational Materials on Penicillin Allergies
• Use our QR code to see our example handout, business card and website
• Design an eye-catching trifold
Select a Location to Host your Event
• Consider a well populated place such as a farmer’s market, health fair or shopping center

Advertise your Event Through Social Media
• Utilize your chapter’s and/or your college’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

Record Event Outcomes
• Keep track of how many people you interact with
• Write down intriguing interactions that happen

Write an Article about the Impact of your Event
• Include patient interactions
• Use to spread awareness on the topic and promote the next event

Contact
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Resources
https://sidp.org/Podcasts
https://www.penallergytest.com/
https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/pdfs/penicillin-factsheet.pdf