

SSHP Penicillin Allergy Educational Task Force

“Are You *Truly* Allergic to Penicillin?”

University of South Carolina College of Pharmacy

What We Did

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>

<https://www.aaaai.org/conditions-and-treatments/library/allergy-library/penicillin-allergy-faq>