



## PENICILLIN ALLERGY DE-LABELLING CLINIC COMING SOON TO THE MATERNITY AMBULATORY PROGRAM!

### ***What is the penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic?***

Penicillin allergies are reported in approximately 10% of the obstetric population and when evaluated appropriately, 90% of these patients can safely receive penicillin as the vast majority of reported reactions are inappropriately labelled an allergy or the allergy resolves over time. The consequence of withholding penicillin and other beta lactam antibiotics in patients without true penicillin allergies include the use of alternative broad spectrum antibiotics leading to increased rates of surgical site infections, adverse drug reactions, development of resistance, increased cost, increased C. Difficile infection rates and longer hospital stays.

### ***What will be the outcomes for the penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic?***

By removing an unverified penicillin allergy, we will increase the number of maternity patients who receive the most effective, safe and evidence based antibiotic regimen if required at delivery and in any situation where antibiotics may be required for the remainder of their lives. This initiative aligns with both the strategic priorities of the Ministry of Health and PHSA/BCWH. By providing appropriate, effective and evidence based care, we will improve maternal infant health outcomes. Additional benefits include patient centered care, healthcare accessibility, primary health prevention, inter-professional collaboration, improved use of health care resources, and innovation and research. Intradermal allergy skin testing to penicillin derivatives has been shown to be an effective tool at ruling out penicillin allergy with 97% accuracy. Several studies have demonstrated the safety of this procedure during pregnancy.

### ***When will the service start and where will the clinic take place?***

The penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic will launch on **Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 2019** and will take place in the Maternity Ambulatory program. The clinic will be scheduled on Fridays.

### ***Which patients are eligible to visit the penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic?***

The new penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic will be available for all women registered to deliver at BCWH.

### ***Who can refer patients to the penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic?***

Any health care provider with privileges at BC Women's Hospital can refer their patient to the penicillin de-labelling clinic. The referral form can be located and downloaded from the BCWH website.

### ***What can the patient expect when they are referred?***

The patient is expected to show up 15 minutes before their appointment to complete an intake form. They will be checked in with the booking clerk at desk #2. The patient can expect to see a physician, nurse and a pharmacist during their visit. The clinic visit should take about 75 minutes not including the 15 minute registration period. The patient is strongly encouraged to arrive on time for registration/check in to prevent any delays.

### ***What is the emergency preparation plan in case of an anaphylactic reaction?***

Anaphylaxis is part of a Code Blue policy. Emergency supplies will be available and the team is aware of transfer. Penicillin guidelines for administration in the Maternity Ambulatory Program are being drafted and will be available on epops soon.

### ***Who can I contact if I have specific question/inquiries about the penicillin allergy delabelling clinic?***

For any clinical/research related inquiries to the penicillin delabelling clinic, you may contact:

Dr. Chelsea Elwood, Obstetrician Gynecologist  
Vanessa Paquette, Pharmacist  
Raymond Mak, Allergy and Immunology specialist

For any clinic/referral process inquiries, you may contact:

Blair Butler, Medical Lead  
Anne Shields, Clinical Resource Nurse  
Anna Bloomfield, Business/Administrative Manager  
Edyta Kowalska, Program Manager