

ABOUT US

The division of Allergy and Immunology at Johns Hopkins is meeting the national demand for advances in the treatment of allergies, asthma and related disorders.



DIVISION OF ALLERGY AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY



Contact us for more information.

Our mission is to promote the understanding and treatment of allergic and immunologic disorders in order to provide optimal patient health by

- Training physicians and scientists for academic careers in allergy and immunology.
- Providing compassionate, state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic care of adults with allergic and immunologic diseases.



(410) 550-2300



Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Clinic

5501 Hopkins Bayview Circle
Baltimore, MD 21224

**ARE YOU ALLERGIC TO
PENICILLIN?**

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/allergy/>

ACTUALLY, YOU MAY NOT BE!

Penicillin allergy is the most common drug allergy reported by patients. However, when testing is performed, more than 90% of patients with histories of penicillin reactions are found not to be currently allergic to penicillins.

Why is evaluation important?

If testing finds you not to be allergic, your doctors will have many more options to treat an infection, and can minimize use of alternative antibiotics which encourage resistant bacteria. This may also decrease the risk of acquiring a surgical site infection.

How long does testing take?

Testing usually takes 2-3 hours

How do I sign up?

Stop by our front desk after your appointment or give us a call to schedule a visit for penicillin allergy testing

(410) 550-2300



"My Mom told me I was allergic to penicillin and I had avoided it my entire life. It was a great relief to find out that I am actually not! Next time I get sick, I know I will have the most appropriate treatment as a result of this test."

- Patient testimonial



What is the testing like?

1 Provider Evaluation

You will be evaluated by a provider who will go over your history and prior reaction in detail.

2 Skin Allergy Testing

Next, you will undergo allergy skin testing with very small needles through and then under the skin on your forearm. If negative at 20 min after placement, your likelihood of being at risk for serious allergic reactions, like anaphylaxis, is extremely small.

3 Oral Challenge

If you do not have a skin test reaction you will undergo an oral test to prove the absence of acute allergy. We will give you an amoxicillin capsule to take and we will closely monitor you for one hour

4 Removal

If you do not have a reaction, then we will remove penicillin from your allergy list and you can take the penicillin family of antibiotics in the future if needed.

Is testing safe?

- Using methods developed over the past 40 years, testing for Penicillin allergy is generally very safe. It is performed very carefully, and the risk of provoking a generalized reaction is very small. You will be monitored throughout the testing procedure.
- If you were to develop a mild skin reaction (hives/itching/redness), we can give you an oral antihistamine and perhaps a steroid to help with the itch or discomfort.
- In the rare event of a whole body reaction, our staff is highly trained to treat the reaction right away. We have not seen such a reaction in more than 50 years of testing here.