



ANTIBIOTIC ALLERGY DE-LABELING JOURNAL CLUB



Antibiotic Awareness Week 2023

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OBJECTIVES

1. Review a recent randomized clinical trial addressing patients with low-risk penicillin allergy
2. Highlight a beta-lactam allergy delabeling intervention in a community hospital

Washington State Data

- NHSN Patient Safety Component - Annual Hospital Survey:

*44. Our facility has a policy or formal procedure for other interventions to ensure optimal use of antibiotics: (Check all that apply.)

- Early administration of effective antibiotics to optimize the treatment of sepsis
- Treatment protocols for *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection
- Stopping unnecessary antibiotic(s) in new cases of *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI)
- Review of culture-proven invasive (for example, bloodstream) infections
- Review of planned outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy (OPAT)
- The treating team to review antibiotics 48-72 hours after initial order (specifically, antibiotic time-out).
- Assess and clarify documented penicillin allergy
- Using the shortest effective duration of antibiotics at discharge for common clinical conditions (for example, community-acquired pneumonia, urinary tract infections, skin, and soft tissue infections)
- None of the above

CDC 57.103 (Front) Rev. 14, v11.1

15 of 21

- **Percentage of hospitals in WA answering “Yes” in 2022 = 29%**
 - 26% of critical access hospitals
 - 18% of all other acute care facilities
 - Survey had a 92% response rate from all WA hospitals

Journal Articles

Research

JAMA Internal Medicine | [Original Investigation](#)

Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial

Ana Maria Copaescu, MD; Sara Vogrin, MBIostat; Fiona James, BBIomedSci; Kyra Y. L. Chua, PhD;
Morgan T. Rose, MBBS; Joseph De Luca, MBBS; Jamie Waldron, MD; Andrew Awad, MD; Jack Godsell, MBBS;
Elise Mitri, BPharm; Belinda Lambros, MAdvNursPrac; Abby Douglas, PhD; Rabea Youcef Khoudja, MD;
Ghislaine A. C. Isabwe, MD; Genevieve Genest, MD; Michael Fein, MD; Cristine Radojicic, MD;
Ann Collier, MD; Patricia Lugar, MD; Cosby Stone, MD; Moshe Ben-Shoshan, MD; Nicholas A. Turner, MD;
Natasha E. Holmes, PhD; Elizabeth J. Phillips, MD; Jason A. Trubiano, PhD

[Doi: 10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.2986](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.2986)

ASHE 2023. [Doi: 10.1017/ash.2023.461](https://doi.org/10.1017/ash.2023.461)

Original Article

Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program in a community medical center

Lakhini Vyas PharmD, BCPS¹ , Karan Raja PharmD, BCPS, BCIDP, AAHIVP^{1,2} , Susan Morrison MD³,
Donald Beggs MD³, Mark S. Attalla PharmD, MBA¹, Mitesh Patel PharmD, BCCCP¹ and Mona Philips RPh, MAS¹

Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy

The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial



Reported penicillin allergies are common, <5% are truly allergic



Penicillin allergy labels prevent patients from getting preferred antibiotics



Penicillin allergy testing can be onerous

Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy

The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial

Objective

- Is oral penicillin challenge non-inferior to standard of care (penicillin skin testing followed by oral challenge) in patients with low-risk penicillin allergy?

Design

- Open-label, multicenter randomized clinical trial
- Non-inferiority margin: 5%

Setting

- Outpatient clinics in 6 medical centers in North America and Australia
- June 2018 – December 2022

Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy

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PEN-FAST
externally
validated tool



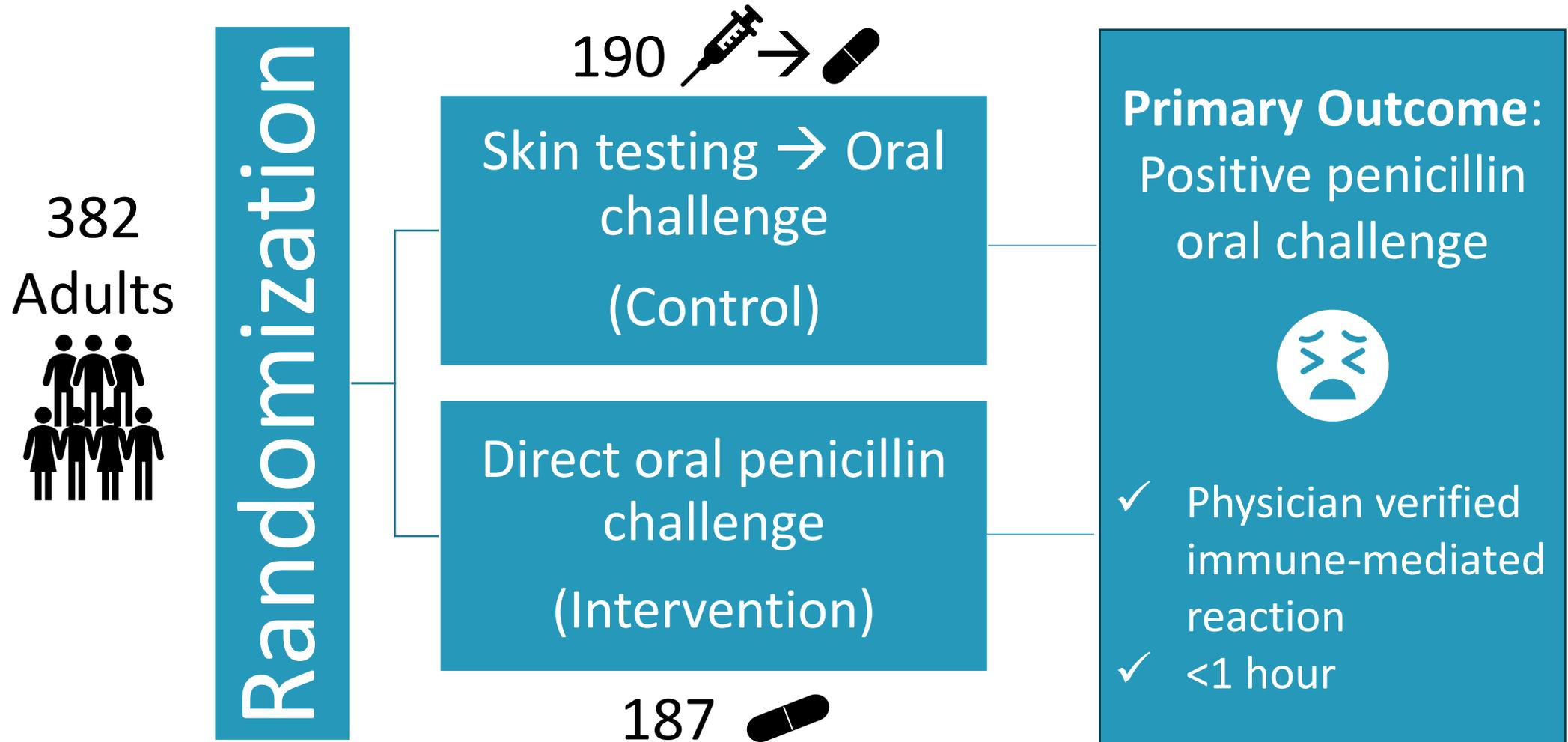
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PEN | Penicillin allergy reported by patient | <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, proceed with assessment |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | F | Five years or less since reaction ^a | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A | Anaphylaxis or angioedema | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 points |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | S | Severe cutaneous adverse reaction ^b | |
| | | OR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | T | Treatment required for reaction ^a | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 point |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Total points |
| Interpretation | | | |
| Points | | | |
| 0 | Very low risk of positive penicillin allergy test <1% (<1 in 100 patients reporting penicillin allergy) | | |
| 1-2 | Low risk of positive penicillin allergy test 5% (1 in 20 patients) | | |
| 3 | Moderate risk of positive penicillin allergy test 20% (1 in 5 patients) | | |
| 4-5 | High risk of positive penicillin allergy test 50% (1 in 2 patients) | | |



Patients reporting
adverse events
(headache,
nausea)
not eligible

Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy

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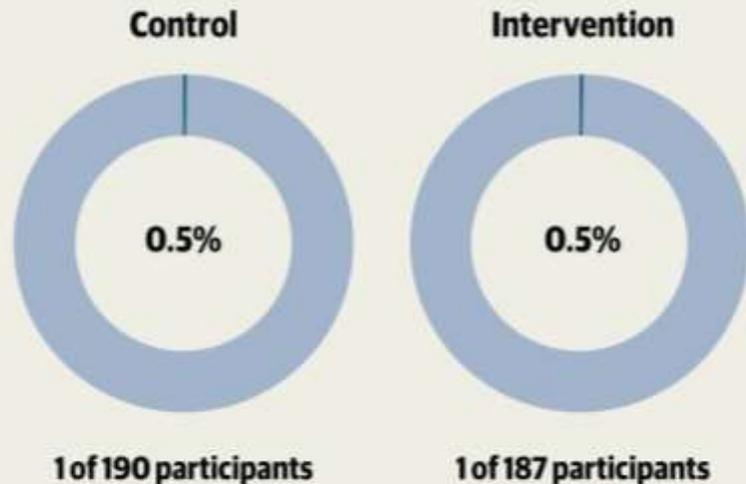
Efficacy of a Clinical Decision Rule to Enable Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy

The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial

FINDINGS

The intervention was found to be noninferior to the control for the primary outcome in adults with low-risk penicillin allergy

Proportion of participants with a positive oral penicillin challenge



Risk difference, 0.0084 (90% CI, -1.22 to 1.24) percentage points, which is less than the noninferiority margin

Other Findings:

- No difference in delayed immune reactions up to 5 days
- Penicillin allergy was removed in 186/190 of the control and 186/187 of the intervention group.
- 94% of participants had a PEN-FAST score <2.

Take-Aways:

- For patients with PEN-FAST score of 0-1 → Direct oral challenge
- Shorter time in clinic
- Less expensive
- Less labor-intensive
- Adaptable to inpatient and outpatient settings

Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program (CAMP) in a community medical center



Beta-lactam antibiotics = most common drug allergy class



Many “allergies” are misclassified adverse drug reactions or intolerances



Limited data about allergy de-labeling programs in community hospitals

Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program (CAMP) in a community medical center

Objective

- Facilitate complete beta-lactam allergy history documentation in the electronic medical record (EMR)
- Increase beta-lactam utilization

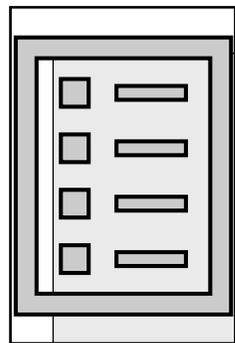
Design

- Quasi-experimental (before & after) study
- Interrupted time-series analysis

Setting

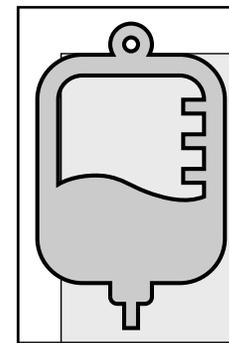
- Non-teaching, urban community medical center within a multi-hospital system in NJ
- Inpatients with documented beta-lactam allergy + on abx

Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program (CAMP) in a community medical center



Primary outcome

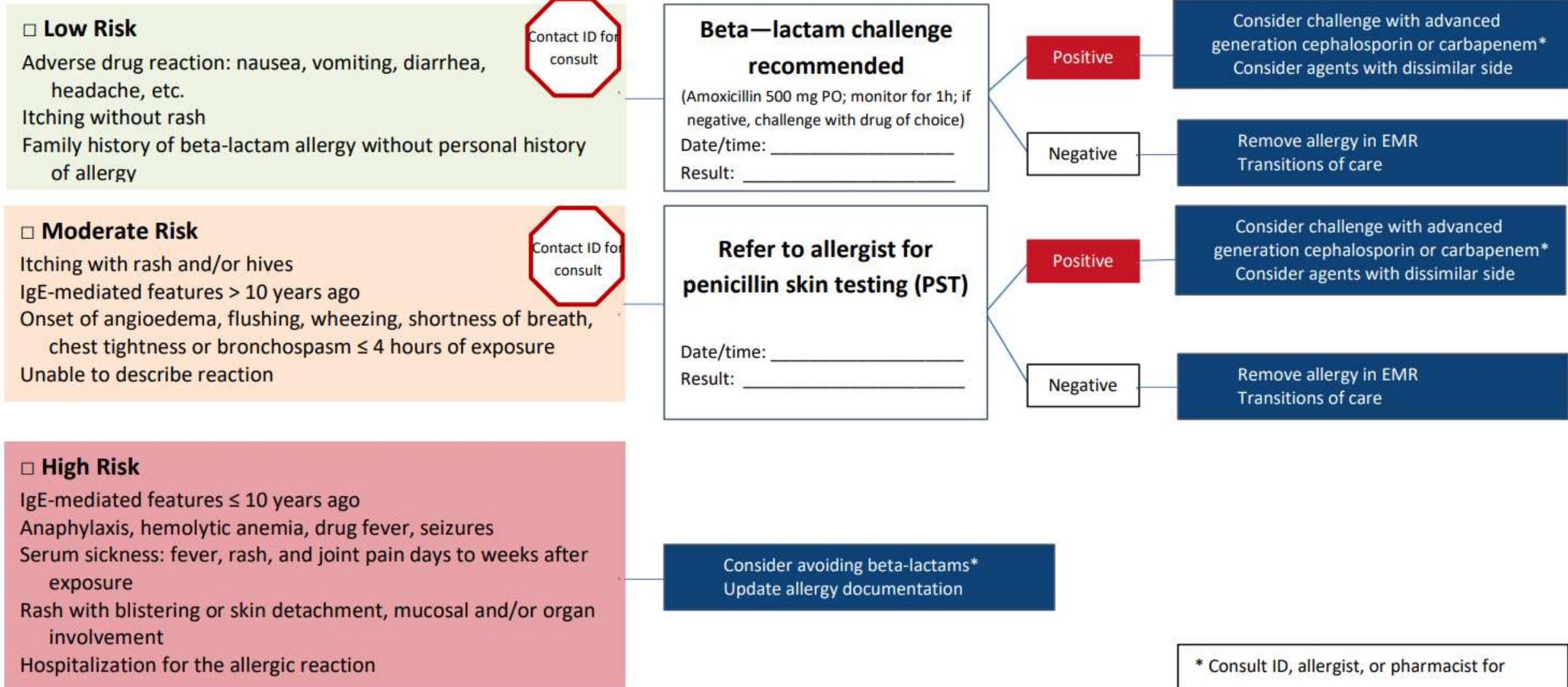
- Complete allergy histories documented in the EMR



Secondary outcome

- Inpatient beta-lactam DOT per 1000-days-present

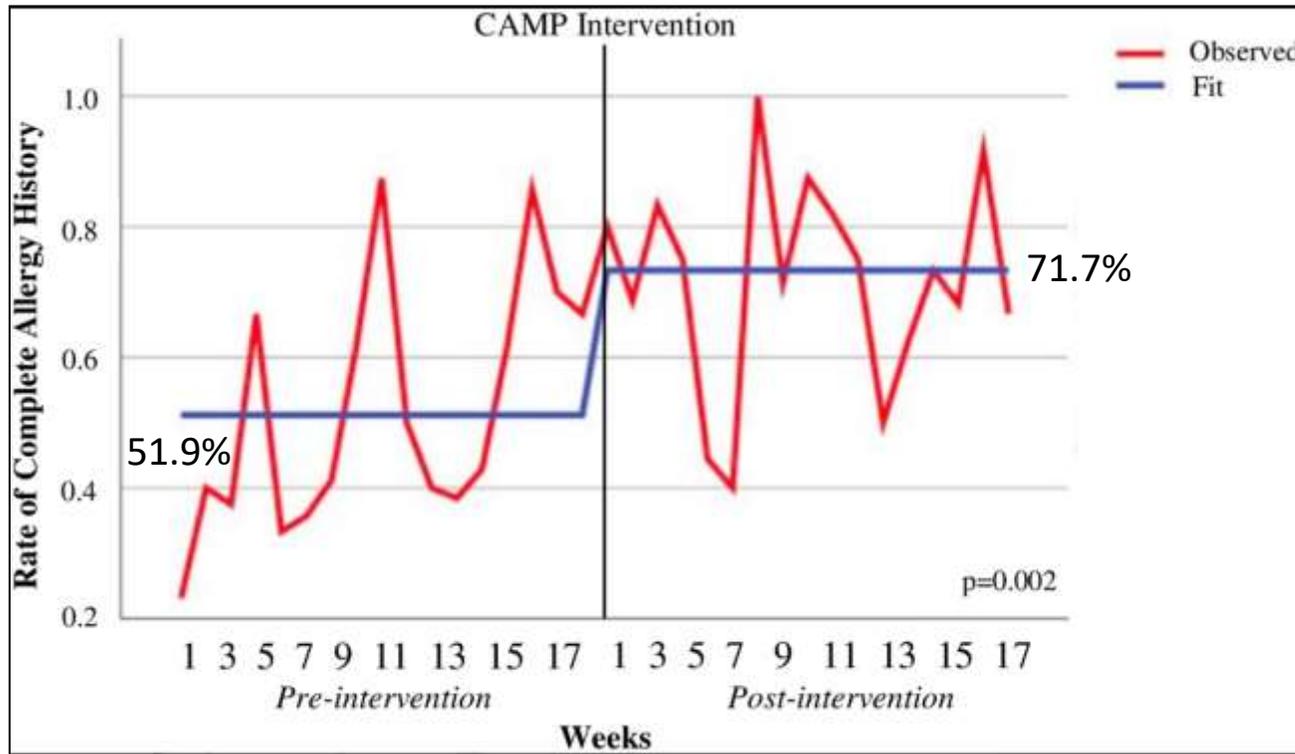
Figure S1: Medication Allergy Assessment Algorithm



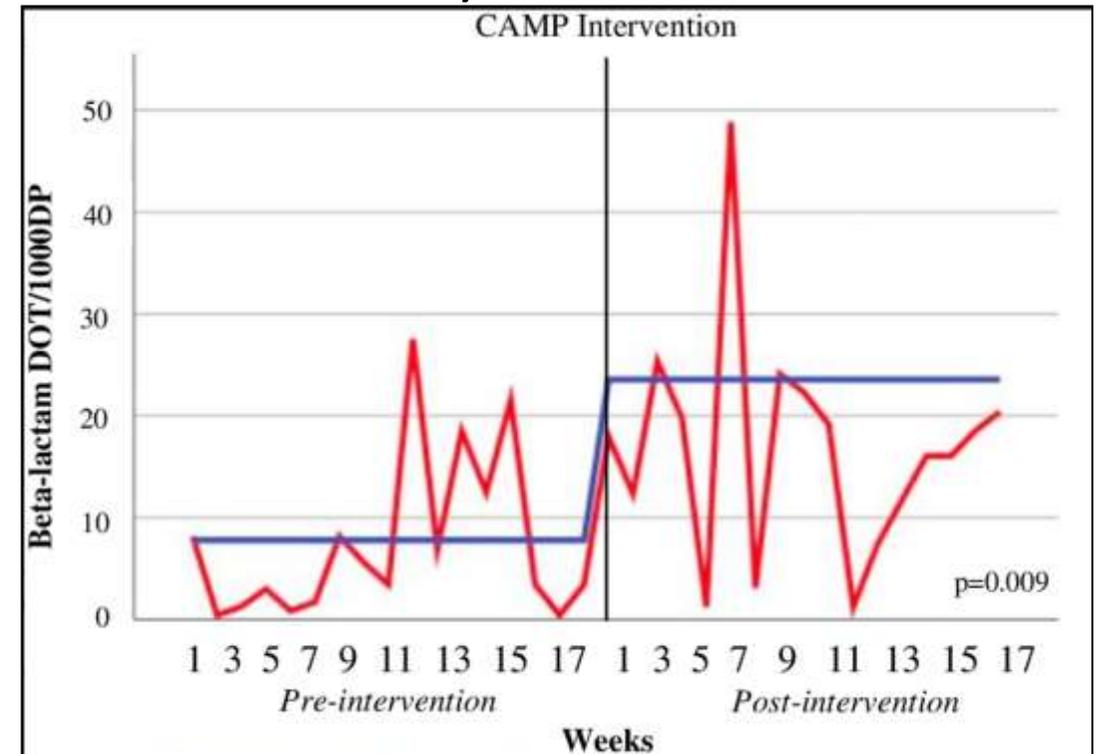
Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program (CAMP) in a community medical center

Results:

Complete allergy histories increased by 19.8%



Average weekly beta-lactam use increased by 9.34 DOT/1000DP



Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program (CAMP) in a community medical center

Other Results:

Antibiotic Utilization in DOT per 1000 days-present

| Beta-lactam class | Before | After |
|-------------------|--------|-------|
| Penicillins | 6.5 | 43.3 |
| Cephalosporins | 74.4 | 181.8 |
| Carbapenems | 46.0 | 60.6 |

- Greater confidence in proceeding directly to oral challenge in low-risk patients

Take-Aways:

- Non-teaching community hospitals can successfully implement penicillin / beta-lactam allergy interventions
- History-taking is a simple intervention
- Patients at low-risk for beta-lactam allergy can proceed directly to oral challenge
- Don't forget to communicate antibiotic allergy removal across the care spectrum!

References

1. Copaescu AM, et al. “Efficacy of a clinical decision rule to enable direct oral challenge in patients with low-risk penicillin allergy: the PALACE randomized clinical trial.” *JAMA Internal Medicine* 2023;183(9):944-952. [doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.2986](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2023.2986)
2. Vyas L, et al. “Beta-lactam comprehensive allergy management program in a community medical center.” *Antimicrobial Stewardship & Healthcare Epidemiology* 2023;3(1), e189. [doi:10.1017/ash.2023.461](https://doi.org/10.1017/ash.2023.461)



U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week: Nov. 18 - 24, 2023

Thank you!

Let us know about the work you are doing.

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[Penicillin Allergy Delabeling | Washington State Department of Health](#)



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