

Penicillin Allergy De-labelling Program

Equivocal Result

This leaflet will provide you with information about the result of your penicillin allergy test.

What does a equivocal test result mean?

An equivocal test result means we cannot say for certain whether you are allergic to penicillin. During the test, you were given a type of penicillin antibiotic while medical staff monitored how your body responded. You experienced some symptoms, but it is unclear whether these definitely indicate an allergy.

Is it safe for me to take penicillin now?

No. We cannot say for certain whether you are allergic, so you should continue to avoid all penicillin-based antibiotics. These include amoxicillin, ampicillin, co-amoxiclav (Augmentin), flucloxacillin, penicillin V and many others.

What happens next?

The hospital will update your records to include the test result and will send a letter to your GP explaining the test and its outcome. Your GP will continue to treat you as penicillin allergic and may consider referring you to a specialist for further testing if needed.

Keep your results letter safe – you may need it for future reference or medical appointments.

Consider wearing a MedicAlert ID or jewellery – this helps alert healthcare professionals and others to your penicillin allergy in case of an emergency.

What should I do if I develop new symptoms after the test?

If you notice any new symptoms after your test - such as a rash, itching, swelling, breathing difficulties, or anything else that feels severe or worrying:

- Seek medical advice straight away.**
- You can contact the hospital doctor who carried out your test, your GP, NHS 111, or go to A&E if your symptoms are serious.
- It's also important to let your GP know about any new symptoms so your medical records can be updated accordingly.

What should I do next time I have an infection?

If you develop an infection, your GP or hospital doctor will assess whether you need antibiotics. If antibiotics are required, you can let them know you have a penicillin allergy. Penicillin antibiotics should not be used. This will be on your medical records in the hospital and at your GP practice.

