

# Penicillin Allergy De-labelling Program

## Equivocal Result

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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.