

# Performing penicillin allergy skin testing

## STEP 1: Skin prick testing

✓ Apply a drop of the following, and then prick the skin using skin pricking device<sup>1</sup>

- Histamine 1 mg/mL (positive control)<sup>1,2</sup>
- PRE-PEN® (benzylpenicilloyl polylysine injection USP)<sup>3</sup>
- Saline (negative control)<sup>1</sup>
- Diluted penicillin G (10,000 units/mL)<sup>1,2</sup>

✓ Wait 15 minutes to read, measure, and record<sup>2,3</sup>

✓ Interpretation<sup>2</sup>

- A valid histamine test site must measure  $\geq 3$  mm
- **Criterion for positive skin prick test:** Wheal  $\geq 3$  mm larger than negative control



If skin prick testing is negative...

## STEP 2: Intradermal testing

✓ Create 5 blebs of 3 mm under skin<sup>3</sup>

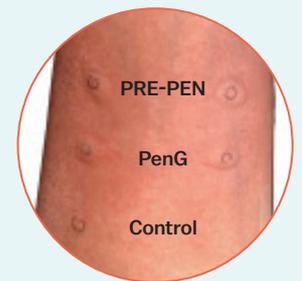
- Duplicate PRE-PEN<sup>2,3</sup>
- Duplicate penicillin G (10,000 units/mL)<sup>1,2</sup>
- Single saline (negative control)<sup>3</sup>

**Mark perimeter of each bleb at placement.<sup>2</sup>**

✓ Wait 15 minutes to read, measure, and record<sup>2,3</sup>

✓ Interpretation

- **Criteria for positive intradermal skin test:** Increase in size of original bleb of  $\geq 3$  mm; itching and flare are commonly present<sup>1,3</sup>
- **Criteria for negative intradermal skin test:** No increase in size of original bleb and no greater reaction than control site<sup>3</sup>
- **Equivocal intradermal skin test:** Wheal only slightly larger than initial injection bleb and control site, with or without erythematous flare, or duplicates are discordant<sup>3</sup>



If intradermal testing is negative...



**Optional systemic challenge<sup>4</sup>**

Please see Important Safety Information on reverse side and accompanying full Prescribing Information.



**PRE-PEN®**  
(benzylpenicilloyl polylysine injection USP)  
Skin Test Antigen

# AAAAI recommends penicillin allergy testing in patients who self-report penicillin allergy.<sup>5</sup>

- Approximately 9 out of 10 patients who report penicillin allergy are likely not allergic, and patients can lose their penicillin allergy over time<sup>1,6</sup>

**Connect with your ALK Allergy Consultant to learn more  
or contact ALK at [penallergytest@alk.net](mailto:penallergytest@alk.net)**

AAAAI=The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

## Indication

PRE-PEN<sup>®</sup> is indicated for the assessment of sensitization to penicillin (benzylpenicillin or penicillin G) in patients suspected to have clinical penicillin hypersensitivity.

## Important Safety Information

The risk of sensitization to repeated skin testing with PRE-PEN<sup>®</sup> is not established. Rarely, a systemic allergic reaction including anaphylaxis may follow a skin test with PRE-PEN<sup>®</sup>. To decrease the risk of a systemic allergic reaction, puncture skin testing should be performed first. Intradermal skin testing should be performed only if the puncture test is entirely negative.

PRE-PEN<sup>®</sup> is contraindicated in those patients who have exhibited either a systemic or marked local reaction to its previous administration. Patients known to be extremely hypersensitive to penicillin should not be skin tested. Please see the package insert for full prescribing information.

No single skin test or combination of tests can completely assure that a reaction to penicillin therapy will not occur.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.  
Visit MedWatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see accompanying full Prescribing Information.**

**References:** **1.** Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters; American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Drug allergy: an updated practice parameter. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2010;105(4):259-273. doi:10.1016/j.anai.2010.08.002 **2.** Jones BM, Bland CM. Penicillin skin testing as an antimicrobial stewardship initiative. *Am J Health Syst Pharm.* 2017;74(4):232-237. doi:10.2146/ajhp160233 **3.** PRE-PEN. Prescribing information. AllerQuest LLC; 2013. **4.** Evaluation and diagnosis of penicillin allergy for healthcare professionals: Is it really a penicillin allergy? Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Updated October 31, 2017. Accessed May 11, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/for-hcp/Penicillin-Allergy.html> **5.** American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology; Penicillin Allergy in Antibiotic Resistance Workgroup. Penicillin allergy testing should be performed routinely in patients with self-reported penicillin allergy. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2017;5(2):333-334. doi:10.1016/j.jaip.2016.12.010 **6.** Bhattacharya S. The facts about penicillin allergy: a review. *J Adv Pharm Technol Res.* 2010;1(1):11-17.



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