# RUTGERS School of Nursing

#### Introduction

- Evaluate data surrounding a documented penicillin allergy
- Identify current trends in management of a reported penicillin allergy

#### Background

- Penicillin most commonly reported allergy in U.S.
- 90% aren't truly allergic
- 80% lose overall sensitivity after 10 years
- Major barrier to appropriate antibiotic use
- Associated with antibiotic resistance
- Providers are more likely to avoid penicillin, rather than clarify allergy
- Penicillin Skin Testing is performed by board-certified allergist in the outpatient setting to confirm true allergy

## Purpose

- Evaluate current documentation and management practices
- Identify opportunities to improve current documentation, clinical management, and increase referral practices

# Improving Documentation and Referral Practices of Self-Reported Penicillin Allergy in the **Electronic Health Record** Amanda Schwartz, BSN. RN and Jade Wells Porrmann, BSN, RN Team Member: Tracy Vitale, DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, NE-

#### Methods

- Retrospective chart review
- Adult patients with documented penicillin allergy in 2019
- Internal medicine department within a large, multi-specialty medical practice

### Results

- 749 total patients
- Majority were Female, White, or Non-Hispanic/Latino
- Most common types were 'Penicillins' and 'Penicillin'
- 44 patients reported an 'unknown' allergic reaction
- 10.5% of allergic reactions reported were true 'Allergy or Hypersensitivity'
- 68% had an onset date 'More than 10 years' or 'Unknown'
- 5 patients had allergy referral ordered

## **Documented Reaction**



81% didn't have an allergic reaction documented

Referrals	s to Allergy
	<1%
99%	

Less than 1% (n = 5) had allergy referral ordered

Documented Allergic Reactions	n	
Urticaria	14	
Unknown	44	
Anaphylaxis	7	
Rash	42	
GI upset	8	
Angioedema	14	
SJS	1	
Tachycardia	1	
Other	5	
Family History	1	
Mental Status Change	5	j
Not documented	601	
Tested Negative	5	
Serum Sickness	1	

#### Discussion

 Comprehensive allergy assessment is necessary to improve EHR allergy documentation and current management practices • Re-design EHR allergy tab • Allergy services are currently under-utilized Need to close gap between primary care and allergy CDS tools can be used to prompt allergy referral

#### Implications

Prescribe future antibiotics Appropriate antibiotic use Need education and increase awareness U.S. healthcare policies support comprehensive penicillin allergy assessment Reduces patient costs Decreases healthcare expenditure

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