

## Antibiotic Stewardship: *Penicillin Allergy Verification and Evaluation Act*

**REQUEST:** The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) requests that you consider introducing the ***Penicillin Allergy Verification and Evaluation Act*** in the Senate. The bipartisan bill, which will be reintroduced by Representatives Morgan Griffith (R-VA) and Ami Bera, MD (D-CA), would require that penicillin allergy verification and evaluation be included in the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit and annual Medicare wellness visits.

**BACKGROUND:** Millions of patients believe they are allergic to penicillin, but evidence shows that more than 90% of patients who have a [self-reported penicillin allergy](#) in their electronic medical record can [safely](#) take penicillin after [verification testing](#) and evaluation. Removing the penicillin allergy label from the patient’s electronic medical record is a relatively easy, low cost and important public health intervention that can improve patient outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and advance the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Correctly identifying and addressing inaccurate reports of penicillin allergy is crucial for older adults, who face heightened vulnerability to severe infections and adverse drug reactions. A [2023 study](#) of adults 65 and older with a penicillin allergy found that 97% were disproved after verification testing.

An AAAAI [position statement](#) on penicillin allergy evaluation notes that: *penicillin allergy evaluation accurately identifies the approximately 9 of 10 patients who, despite reporting a history of “penicillin allergy”, can receive penicillin without allergic reaction. Efforts to delabel can and should be performed by all clinicians, not limited to those from Allergy and Immunology. The AAAAI encourages widespread and routine penicillin allergy evaluations, which are integral for successful antibiotic stewardship.*

**BILL SUMMARY:** To improve antibiotic stewardship and combat AMR, the ***PAVE Act*** seeks to identify and de-label Medicare patients who have been previously inaccurately labeled with a penicillin allergy. The legislation adds “penicillin allergy verification and evaluation” as part of Medicare’s [Initial Preventative Physical Exam \(IPPE\)](#) and [Annual Wellness Visit \(AWV\)](#). IPPEs are covered for new Medicare Part B enrollees within the 12 months and AWVs are covered annually.

The bill defines “penicillin allergy verification and evaluation” as:

- identification of individuals reporting a history of penicillin allergy;
- consideration of whether the reported reaction history is consistent with an allergy/hypersensitivity reaction or can be re-evaluated;
- provision of information on the adverse individual and public health impact of a penicillin allergy label; and
- referral to an allergy/immunology specialist, as appropriate.

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:** American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM), American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy (AAOA), American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS), American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI), American College of Physicians (ACP), American Gastroenterological Association (AGA), American Geriatrics Society (AGS), Allergy and Asthma Network (AAN), American Medical Association (AMA), Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Connection Team (FAACT), Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), Immune Deficiency Foundation

(IDF), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), International Food Protein Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome Association (I-FPIES), The Mast Cell Disease Society, Inc. (TMS), and Peggy Lillis Foundation (PLF).

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** The AAAAI has compiled the following resources related to the importance of more penicillin allergy testing:

- Visit the [AAAAI Penicillin Allergy Center](#) to access materials for both patients and clinicians, including a series of videos describing the process of penicillin allergy testing.
- Listen to AAAAI's [podcast](#) from the Conversations from the World of Allergies series about the importance of proactively delabeling patients with reported penicillin allergy.
- Watch this important message about penicillin allergy testing in children, for whom removal of a false label can improve a lifetime of outcomes: [Penicillin Allergy Testing for Kids: Why and How](#).

**CONTACT:** For additional information, please contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or [sheitzig@aaaai.org](mailto:sheitzig@aaaai.org).