

Committee: New York City Chapter of Health-system Pharmacists
Topic: Documentation of Drug Allergies
Sponsored: Monica Mehta, Yi Guo

Whereas, It has been shown that 90% of penicillin allergies in medical records are incorrect, partly because of a misunderstanding of what constitutes an allergy by patients and some healthcare providers, and,

Whereas, Presence of an allergy label in the medical record has been shown to be associated with an increased mortality, longer length of stay, and worse clinical outcomes compared to no allergy label in hospitalized patients treated with antimicrobials, and,

Whereas, Patients who have a penicillin allergy in his/her medical record is more likely to get second-line, non-beta-lactam antibiotic for infections compared to those who do not have a penicillin allergy, and,

Whereas, Pharmacists are drug experts and thereby have a better understanding of what constitutes a drug allergy as opposed to adverse drug reactions or intolerance, and,

Whereas, Pharmacists have traditionally caught medication orders that cross-react with medications listed in the allergy section of the chart and have prevented the dispensing/administration of those agents, therefore, be it

Resolved That:

The New York State Council of Health-system Pharmacists supports the inclusion of pharmacists in the screening, documentation, and clarification of drug allergies in electronic medical records. Thereby, pharmacists have a larger role in shaping appropriate pharmacotherapy and documentation of the allergy label.

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By: *Monica Mehta, Pharm.D., MPH*
Signature of NYSCHP Active Member 1

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