

# BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS

2023

**Nomination: 2. Optimising teams' capacity and creating efficiencies**

**South East Toronto Family Health Team**

## **Building Capacity for Penicillin Allergy Assessment and Management in Primary Care**



Penicillin allergies are the most commonly self-reported drug allergy, estimated 10% of the population. The majority of people with a reported penicillin allergy can safely be treated with beta lactams, the majority experience intolerance, non-allergic reaction or outgrow their allergy over time. Despite this, beta-lactams are commonly avoided, leading to use of second-line antibiotics, which may be less effective, have a greater risk of adverse events, and be more costly. This initiative developed standardized penicillin allergy assessments in primary care in collaboration with hospital-based antimicrobial stewardship physician Dr. Janine McCready. The clinic has been implemented successfully and continues to run. Patients at South East Toronto Family Health Team (SETFHT) with a penicillin or amoxicillin allergy label are contacted by email or directly referred by their provider for assessment and, if indicated, are offered a direct oral amoxicillin challenge. The penicillin allergy de-labelling clinic led by a pharmacist and nurse practitioner occurs one half-day per month. In patients where amoxicillin oral challenge is performed and the result of the test is negative, the patient's penicillin allergy is removed from their medical records and the information is disseminated to key members of the patient's healthcare team (ie. community pharmacy, local hospital).

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