



# Penicillin Allergy in Pregnancy

## References:

- JAMA. 2020;323(12):1216.
- Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2022 May;128(5):568-574.
- Am Fam Physician. 2001;64(1):119-127

## Why am I referred for penicillin allergy assessment/testing during pregnancy?

- 8 out of 10 medications prescribed during pregnancy are antibiotics.
- Penicillin-based antibiotics are commonly the drug of choice for infections encountered during pregnancy.
- Lifelong benefit if penicillin allergy can be clarified and removed.

## Group B Streptococcus Prophylaxis

- Up to 30% of women have Group B Streptococcus as part of their vaginal flora and penicillin is the drug of choice for Group B Streptococcus prophylaxis during delivery.

## Breastfeeding

- Penicillin-based antibiotics are commonly prescribed to breastfeeding women given their safety profile.
- Alternative antibiotics may not be as well-studied and may pose concerns to the baby such as increased bilirubin levels and dental staining.
  - Bilirubin is a substance produced when old red blood cells break down.

**Check with the clinic pharmacist if you have any questions or concerns at 604-417-8921**