

# The Antimicrobial Advocate

## Nebraska ASAP Newsletter



### AHRQ Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship Training Program

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is currently recruiting practices for a no-cost, 18-month program beginning in June 2024 to promote appropriate antibiotic use while maintaining patient satisfaction and reducing potential side effects. Practices will receive training and one-on-one expert coaching to implement sustainable improvements in the diagnosis and treatment of infections in the telemedicine environment.

**Eligible practices can offer patient care exclusively via telemedicine or via a mix of in-person and telemedicine visits.**

#### Eligible Practice Types

Primary care practices (including internal medicine, family, and pediatrics), outpatient specialty practices that provide primary care (e.g., gynecology), community-based health clinics, student health clinics, retail clinics, occupational health, and urgent care clinics. Whole practices or individual practitioners can participate.

**Informational Webinar:**  
**May 21, 2024, 11-11:30 am CST**  
[Registration Link](#)

The program features <20-minute webinars on the following topics:

- Upper Respiratory Tract Infections
- Influenza
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- COVID-19
- Acute Cough
- Ear Pain
- Sinusitis
- Pharyngitis
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Cellulitis
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Diarrhea

**AHRQ Program Website:**



**[AHRQ Antibiotic Stewardship Safety Program](#)**



# 2024 ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP SUMMIT

Smart Antibiotic Choices, Stronger Future

[Register Here!](#)

Join Us!

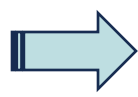
May 31, 2024

LaVista, NE

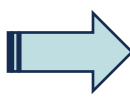
## Antibiotic Stewardship Best Practices

# Want to clarify penicillin allergies, but don't have access to penicillin skin testing?

The PEN-FAST tool helps identify patients with low-risk allergies by asking only 3 questions.



The 2023 RCT below shows oral challenge with amoxicillin is safe in patients with a PEN-FAST score <3.



This eliminates the need for challenging and costly penicillin skin testing for low-risk patients and increases first-line antibiotic options.

**Penicillin Allergy Decision Rule (PEN-FAST)**  
Identifies low-risk penicillin allergies.

**INSTRUCTIONS**  
Apply this calculator to patients who have reported a penicillin allergy.

When to Use ▾

Five years or less since reaction	No	0	Yes	+2
Anaphylaxis or angioedema OR Severe cutaneous adverse reaction	No	0	Yes	+2
Treatment required for reaction	No	0	Yes	+1

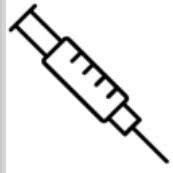
**1** points  
PEN-FAST Score

**5** %  
Low risk of positive penicillin allergy test

[Penicillin Allergy Decision Rule \(PEN-FAST\) \(mdcalc.com\)](https://mdcalc.com)

### INTERVENTION

377 Participants analyzed (PEN-FAST score <3)



**190 Control**  
Skin prick and intradermal penicillin testing, followed by oral challenge if skin testing results are negative

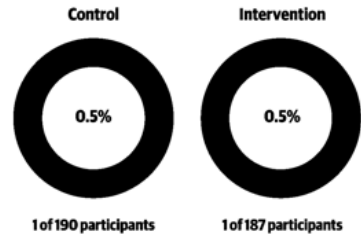


**187 Intervention**  
Direct oral penicillin drug challenge

### FINDINGS

The intervention was found to be noninferior to the control for the primary outcome in adults with low-risk penicillin allergy

Proportion of participants with a positive oral penicillin challenge

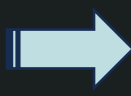


**Risk difference, 0.0084 (90% CI, -1.22 to 1.24) percentage points, which is less than the noninferiority margin**

[Full Study Here: Enabling Direct Oral Challenge in Patients With Low-Risk Penicillin Allergy: The PALACE Randomized Clinical Trial | JAMA Internal Medicine](#)



The Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes



## EDUCATION

Do you need educational topic ideas to meet the Education Core Element in your LTC facility?

Check out the new ASAP resource of topic options for antimicrobial stewardship education in long term care. These topics can be incorporated into didactic presentations, newsletters, flyers, posters or emails.



[ASAP Website Link: Educational-Topics-for-Antimicrobial-Stewardship-in-Long-Term-Care](#)