



June, 2018

## JDJ CONSULTING NEWSLETTER

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### THE ALLERGY CONUNDRUM

*To administer or not to administer? That is the question...*

We recently responded to a client's question about an eye drop allergy. An ophthalmologist ordered ofloxacin for a patient who had reported an anaphylactic reaction to Levaquin. A nurse caught the order and held the drug. The case went to peer review, and the reviewer concluded that ofloxacin was an inappropriate choice of eye drop for this patient. After the review process was completed, the ophthalmologist's final comment on the case was that their initial order of ofloxacin for the patient with a Levaquin allergy was ok because, "no chance of reaction with eye drop".

We know that in this case, administering the ofloxacin to that patient would likely have resulted in an anaphylactic reaction. We even know what eye drops would be safe or unsafe to use in that instance. The question then becomes, how do we prevent this error from happening, even

### DISPELLING ALLERGY MYTHS

*Allergies, Irritations, and Anaphylaxis*



A patient is admitted and reports an allergy to an antibiotic. But it's the same "antibiotic of choice" that their surgeon likes to use. When the surgeon reviews the chart and notes the patient allergy, they decide to administer a "test dose" of the antibiotic to test for a *true allergy*. After all, if the patient is actually allergic, they'll just have a minor reaction to a small test dose, right?

Wrong.

**KEEP READING...**

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### DEFINITIONS

Drug Allergy: An abnormal

when the ordering physician doesn't agree with the suggested practice?

This case study presents itself as an excellent learning opportunity. Consider these questions:

- What processes could be put into place to prevent a nurse from administering a drug contraindicated for allergic reaction?
- Does your facility have a process in place for bringing "good catches" or "near misses" to peer review?
- Does your facility have a non-punitive culture that empowers staff to hold an order for a potentially contraindicated drug?
- How would your facility approach the situation if after review, the ordering physician disagreed with the peer review outcome?

reaction of the immune system to a medication, usually facilitated by the production of immunoglobulin E (IgE).

Drug Hypersensitivity: Objectively reproducible symptoms initiated by a dose of a drug usually tolerated by non-hypersensitive individuals.

Anaphylaxis: A severe and potentially life threatening multi-system allergic response, sometimes characterized by shock.

[Read More](#)



[Read More!](#)

## Celebrate Positive Patient Safety

If a staff member makes a "good catch" or prevents a "miss", recognize that! We all establish protocols to ensure a safe environment of care, and with so many requirements from so many different regulatory bodies, sometimes it can feel like we're doing a lot of unnecessary work. But when we see our systems preventing errors, we know that our efforts are paying off.

## IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Interested in some of the resources referenced in the above articles? Click on the link to download a PDF copy of each document.

[Eye Drop Allergy Chart](#)

[Fluoroquinolone Allergies Info Sheet](#)

[Penicillin Allergy Chart](#)

[Drug Allergy Quiz](#)

[Anaphylaxis Quiz](#)

[American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology](#)

## JDJ Consulting News

JDJ Consulting welcomed two new employees: Robin Fields, RPh, and Madison Kramer, MPH

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