Background

- An estimated 10-15% of the population has a self-reported penicillin allergy.
- Up to 20% of patients admitted to a hospital have a recorded penicillin allergy in the medical record.
- Only 1-2% of reported allergies will have evidence of true allergy upon skin testing.
- Inappropriate reporting of allergies can lead to use of inappropriate empirical antimicrobial therapy and increased use of broad spectrum antimicrobial therapy.
- It is highly recommended to obtain an accurate allergy history in order to ensure the safest and most efficacious antimicrobial treatment is given.

Methods

- A review of the accuracy of previously documented penicillin allergies entered from 11/14/3-3/31/14 was conducted for analysis of baseline data.
- A weekly report of new penicillin allergies entered into the electronic medical record was generated from 10/1/14-3/31/14.
- A team of clinical pharmacy specialists made calls to the identified patients to clarify allergies and update the patient chart using a standardized questionnaire including five key questions.

Results

- 325 patients had a documented penicillin allergy in the pre intervention cohort.
- 229 patients had a documented penicillin allergy in the post intervention cohort.

Conclusions

- Clarification of penicillin allergies using a simple questionnaire can improve the accuracy of penicillin documentation.
- A large amount of penicillin allergies are entered into the electronic medical record per unique patient.

References


Disclosures

Authors have nothing to disclose concerning possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this presentation.