



Date:

Dear Doctor,

Your patient has previously been told they are allergic to penicillin. On careful questioning it sounds like your patient experienced a side effect to penicillin and had none of the symptoms that would suggest an allergic reaction.

I have asked them to return to you for further questioning / investigation.

As you know it is important to accurately record a persons allergy status as an incorrect record could result in them being denied medication.

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) *Safety in doses: improving the use of medicines in the NHS*¹ identified seven key actions to improve medication safety. One of these was a need to document patients' medicine allergy status in both primary and secondary care. Improving the recording of patient allergies and raising awareness amongst staff of high risk products and the importance of knowing the patients' allergy status were seen as key actions to reduce the small but significant risk of the morbidity and mortality associated with allergic reactions.

In response to the NPSA report, the South West Strategic Health Authority is working in partnership with the ABPI to enable Trusts (primary care and hospital) on a campaign to improve patient safety in relation to allergies to medicines.

As part of the Medicine Allergy Matters campaign you patient has been given a leaflet describing the difference between an allergy and an adverse event.

Yours Sincerely

This document is part of a pilot project that has been developed in collaboration with NHS South West and the ABPI Outreach Project. If you have any queries or concerns about this project please email allergy@southwest.nhs.uk

¹ www.npsa.nhs.uk/nrls/alerts-and-directives/directives-guidance/safety-in-doses/

