

Paediatric allergy

Following your successful drug challenge

Information for patients, parents and carers

Name: _____

Drug tested: _____

Date of challenge: ____ / ____ / ____

Introduction

Congratulations! Your child has successfully completed the hospital-based part of the drug challenge. It is now important that you follow the advice below. If your child has had an antibiotic challenge, you will need to complete a course of treatment as prescribed by the allergy team.

Next steps

Although it is unlikely for your child to experience an allergic reaction at this stage, we advise that:

- your child should avoid exercise, active play and activities for the rest of the challenge day as this could bring on allergic symptoms more easily
- your child goes to school and continues with their daily activities the next day
- you observe your child for the next two days to ensure there are no signs of a reaction

Symptoms include:

Mild reaction or delayed reaction:

- rash
- gut symptoms (e.g. tummy pain, loose stools - poo - or vomiting)
- eczema flare-up

These can happen from two hours to two days after the challenge. Most do not require any treatment, but antihistamines or eczema treatments can be useful. Please follow your child's drug allergy action plan (if they have one).

Serious allergic reaction:

- airway or breathing (coughing, wheezing, noisy or difficulty breathing)
- general wellbeing (sleepiness, reduced responsiveness, paleness or floppiness)

In the very unlikely event of this happening, please follow your child's drug allergy **action plan** (if they have one), or **call 999** to get an ambulance and immediate medical support.

Having the drug in the future

If, as expected, your child has not experienced any allergic symptoms for two days after the drug challenge, they can now tolerate the drug tested and are not allergic to it. If any further follow-up, tests or reports are needed, the allergy team will arrange these for your child.

Who to contact with queries or concerns

If your child has had a reaction at home or you need more information about the challenge/supervised feed, please call the allergy team on **020 3312 6091**. You will be asked to leave a voice message and the allergy nurses will get back to you within two to three working days. Please note that this number is not for urgent healthcare queries. If you need urgent help call 999 (for emergencies) or 111/your GP (for non-emergencies).

Other useful contact numbers:

Paediatric allergy nurses (for allergy-related health queries) **020 3312 6091**

Paediatric allergy dietitians (for diet-related queries) **020 331 21127**

Admin teams (for appointments-related queries)

- Food/drug challenge appointments booking **020 3311 6611**
- Main reception (paediatric allergy, St Mary's Hospital) **020 3312 1381**
- Outpatients department appointments (St Mary's Hospital) **020 3312 6315**
- Outpatients department appointments (Hammersmith Hospital) **020 3313 4727**

Paediatric allergy secretaries (for letters/reports) **020 3312 1257**

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at **imperial.pals@nhs.net**. The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:
Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street,
London W2 1NY

Email: **ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net**

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.patient.information@nhs.net