

Policy Title:		Allergy Skin Testing
Applies To:		Health Care Providers performing allergy skin testing
Approved:	Effective:	Next Review:
May 15, 2025	May 27, 2025	May 15, 2029
Sponsor:		Kate Melvin, Senior Director Episodic and Integrated Acute Care Dr. Paige Moorhouse, Senior Medical Director, Episodic and Integrated Acute Care
Approval Authority:		Clinical Operations Council (COC)
Number: CL-AS-010		Manual: Interdisciplinary Clinical

PURPOSE

This policy standardizes the approach for performing the following types of allergy skin testing:

- Skin patch
- Skin prick (Epicutaneous)
- Intradermal

COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

1. The Health Care Provider (HCP) must obtain the following initial competency requirements:
 - 1.1. Review of this policy.
 - 1.2. Competency requirements as per individual skills listed in [Allergy Testing Clinical Practice Support Guide](#), depending on the type of Skin Testing performed:
 - ☐ Skin Patch Testing
 - Administering Allergy Patch Testing in Adults and Pediatrics (Dynamic Health), and
 - Successful completion of the proficiency skill checklist
 - ☐ Skin Prick Testing
 - Administering Allergy Skin Prick Testing in Adults (Dynamic Health), and
 - Successful completion of the proficiency skill checklist
 - ☐ Intradermal Testing

- Administering Intradermal Allergy Skin Testing in Adults (Dynamic Health), and
- Successful completion of the proficiency skill checklist

2. The HCP must:

- 2.1. Receive practical instruction from an HCP competent in performing the procedure and observe them performing the procedure.
- 2.2. Perform a return demonstration to an HCP competent in the skill.
- 2.3. Keep a copy of their signed proficiency skill checklist for reference.

Note: The decision to be considered competent in the return demonstration(s) must be mutually agreed upon by the HCP providing the demonstration and the HCP competent in the skill.

3. The HCP must perform on-going self-assessment of competency and develop a plan in conjunction with immediate supervisor/manager to address on-going needs.

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. The physician/nurse practitioner (NP) must be available in person or remotely for all testing.
2. Anaphylaxis kits must be readily available.
3. The patient must remain in the clinical area for the duration of testing.

Exception: Skin patch testing.

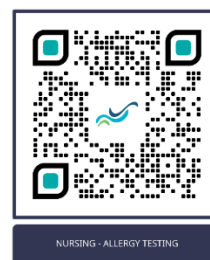
4. When performing drug allergy skin testing, the HCP must follow [Medication Independent Double Checks - Policy and Procedure](#) and [NSHA MM-MA-005 High Alert Medications - Policy and Procedure - NSHA MM-SR-010](#) if applicable.
5. The HCP is authorized to **assess** and **interpret results** using the appropriate method, if applicable (example: positive and negative controls) and communicate these results to the physician/NP to diagnose an allergy and determine non-allergies.

Note: Only a physician/NP is authorized to diagnose allergies and/or determine non-allergies.

6. The Charge Nurse/delegate is responsible to ensure patch testing supplies are adequately stocked on a regular basis.

PROCEDURE

1. Refer to [Allergy Testing Clinical Practice Support Guide](#).



REFERENCES

PRE-PEN®. (2020). *Instructional guide. Penicillin allergy skin testing.*

https://www.penallergytest.com/assets/pdf/PST_Instruction_Guide.pdf

PRE-PEN®. (2021). *Success starts with assurance. Penicillin allergy skin testing with PRE-PEN®.*

<https://www.penallergytest.com/>

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendices

Appendix A: Definitions

* * *

Appendix A: Definitions

Health Care Provider (HCP)	A regulated health care provider responsible for the direct care of patients at Nova Scotia Health. This Includes: ○ Registered Nurse (RN) ○ Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) ○ Licensed Practice Nurse (LPN) on approved units

VERSION HISTORY

Version:	Effective:	Approved by:	What's changed:
Original	2025-05-27	Kate Melvin, Senior Director Episodic and Integrated Acute Care Dr. Paige Moorhouse, Senior Medical Director, Episodic and Integrated Acute Care	N/A



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International license. The licence does not apply to NSHA trademarks, logos or content for which Nova Scotia Health is not the copyright owner. This material is intended for general information only and is provided on an "as is", "where is" basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to confirm the accuracy of the information, Nova Scotia Health does not make any representation or warranty, express, implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability or fitness for a particular purpose of such information. This material is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified health professional. Nova Scotia Health expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use.