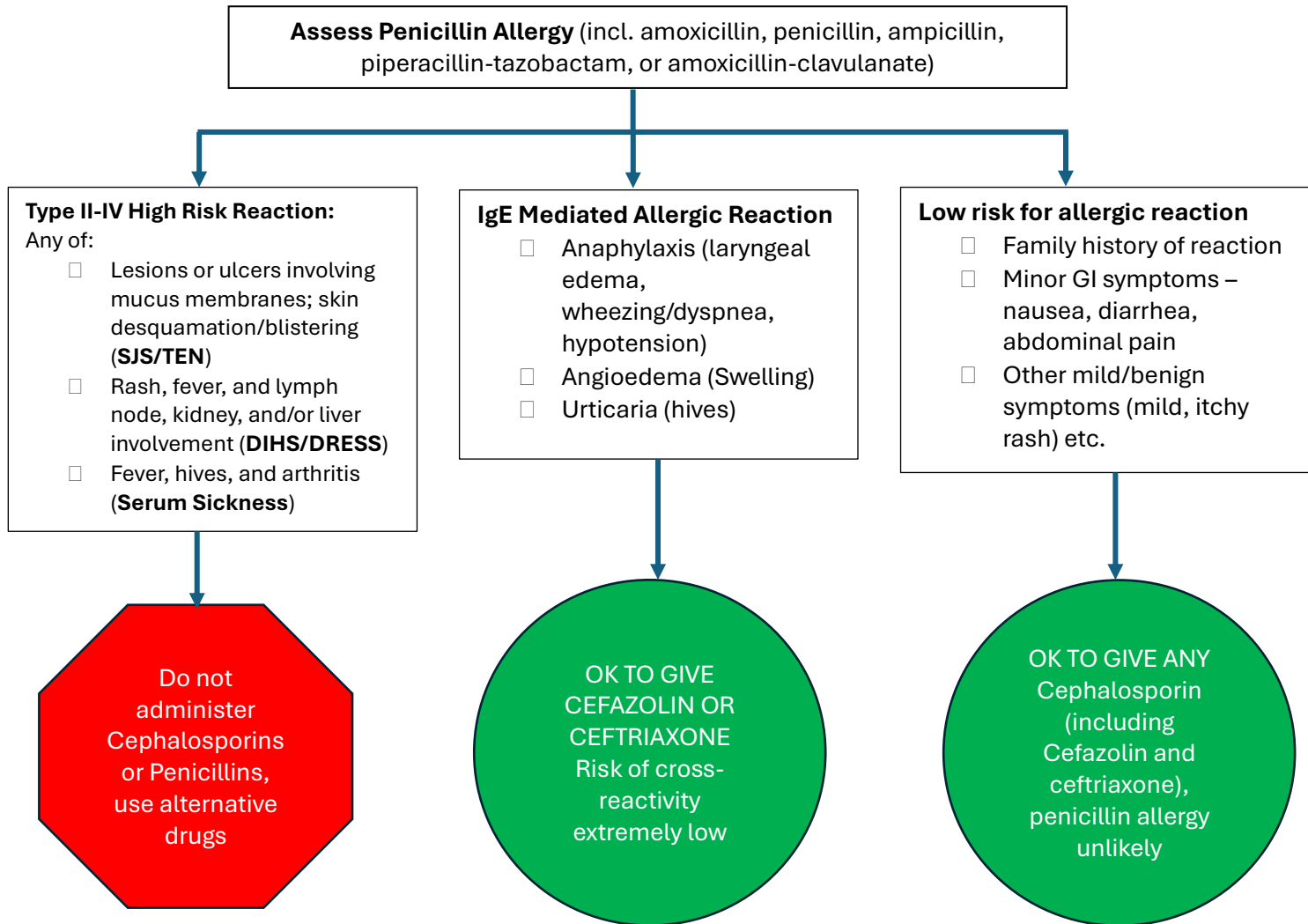


Can my penicillin allergic patient get Cefazolin?

Inclusion: Penicillin allergic adult patients

Exclusion: Cephalosporin allergies (see below)

The vast majority of patients with a penicillin allergy label can safely receive cefazolin. Cefazolin has been shown to be superior at preventing SSI compared to alternative antibiotics. This guideline uses an assessment of the type of reaction the patient had to determine the risk of a reaction to cefazolin in patients. Guidance for cephalosporin allergies is provided in text below.



Patients with cephalosporin allergies should be assessed for true allergy ([see beta lactam allergy guidance here](#)). If the reaction was not to cefazolin and was low risk (itching only and mild rash without organ involvement, or patient does not recall any details about the reaction), ok to administer cefazolin as it does not have a shared side chain with any other cephalosporin.

Blumenthal, K. G., Ryan, E. E., Li, Y., Lee, H., Kuhlen, J. L., & Shenoy, E. S. (2018). The Impact of a Reported Penicillin Allergy on Surgical Site Infection Risk. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 66(3), 329–336. <https://doi.org/10.1093/CID/CIX794>
Kuruvilla, M., Sexton, M. E., Wiley, Z., Langfitt, T., Lynde, G., & Wolf, F. (2020). A streamlined approach to optimize perioperative antibiotic prophylaxis in the setting of penicillin allergy labels. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 145(2), AB55. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2019.12.696>

Approved: IDMP 1/2025, see full [beta lactam allergy guidance here](#) (approved P+T 10/15/2024)
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