

**New allergy process on the day of surgery after pre surgical antibiotic is administered in Pre op.**

**Problem:** Patients in the pre op area receive pre surgical antibiotics. There are times when a patient develops a "new" allergy to a medication. Patients may or may not realize that this reaction would denote a "new allergy" that must be reported to their primary care physician and be included in their allergy list for other future surgical procedures or hospital admission.

**Solution:** We created a form letter that is completed by the RN and the Anesthesiologist based on the new allergy, presenting symptoms and resolution. This letter will identify the following information:

1. What medication the patient received that caused an allergic reaction
2. What type of reaction it was, i.e. redness, rash, anaphylactic etc
3. What we treated the reaction with i.e. Benedryl
4. Who to inform immediately and in the future

Attached is a sample letter that has been successful in educating our patients. Because they may be nervous and pre occupied with their surgical procedure we review this information on the following day with during the patient's post op call. **Remember that it is important to use "layman's" terms when creating this document.** A copy of the document is retained in the patient record and their medical chart is updated on the day of the occurrence including a notation and date of when the new allergy was discovered. If the patient requests we will mail a copy of this letter to their primary care physician.

**SAMPLE**

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Date

Dear Mr. John Doe,

During the course of your stay at West Hartford Surgery Center you had a Probable adverse reaction to (**Dilaudid**).

The reaction you had was (**red rash that started at your jaw line and covered your chest and abdomen**). You had no difficulty breathing, your lungs were clear and your oxygen saturation remained between 97% – 99% throughout.

You had (**pruritis or itchiness**).

You were treated with: (**50 mg of Intravenous Benadryl**) with immediate relief of the rash, but within 30 minutes the rash started to return. The rash started to fade on its own, but you were given (**Solu-Cortef 100 mg intravenously**) to help prevent return of the rash.

**This drug reaction should be discussed and reviewed with your private primary care physician as soon as possible and to other caregivers, specialists or healthcare facilities prior to another surgical procedure.**

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at (860) 586-8655.

Sincerely,