

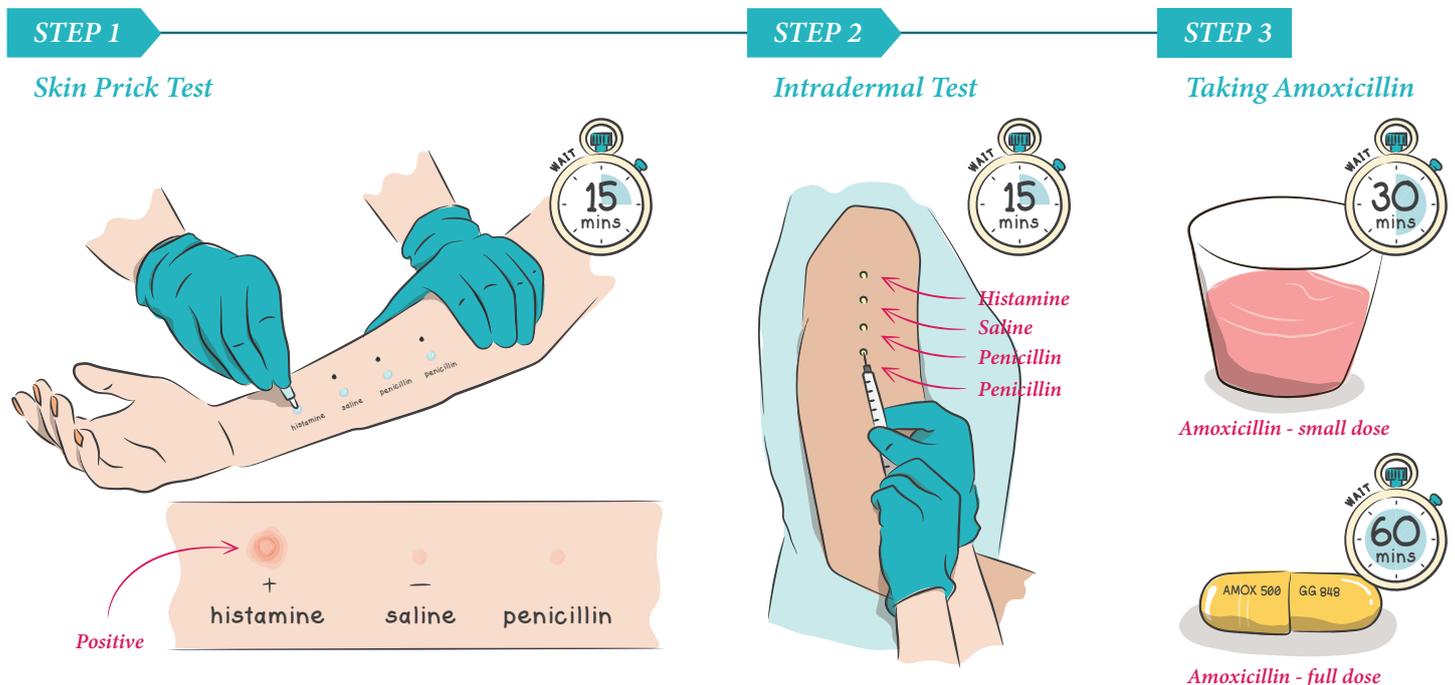
Penicillin Testing

How does penicillin testing at UCSF work?

Ask your doctor for a referral to Penicillin Testing at the Parnassus campus (400 Parnassus Avenue, 2nd floor). If you do not hear from the clinic within a week, please call 415-353-2725 to schedule an appointment. Antihistamines interfere with testing results, so please avoid taking them for 5 days before your visit. Penicillin testing visits take about 3-4 hours, so you may want to bring something to do during the visit.

What happens during penicillin testing?

- Step 1:** Penicillin testing starts with penicillin skin testing. Penicillin is not absorbed into your body or bloodstream during skin testing. The skin is first pricked with a small plastic “fork.”
- Step 2:** If there is no reaction, a small needle is used to place penicillin underneath the skin.
- Step 3:** If Step 1 and Step 2 are negative, a small dose of a penicillin antibiotic (amoxicillin liquid or tablet) is given under observation in the allergy clinic. If there is no reaction, a full dose of amoxicillin tablet or capsule is given under observation in the allergy clinic.



The Allergy Clinic care team is trained to treat reactions such as immediate hives and delayed drug rashes. Symptoms occur rarely after testing in <1% of people. Severe reactions are exceedingly rare.

What about COVID-19? UCSF Health is taking extra precautions to ensure adequate screening and appropriate physical distancing for our patients. For penicillin testing, a nurse will take you directly to your testing area, where you will be distanced from other patients for the entire testing visit duration.