

Beta-lactam Allergy Assessment:

Questions to Ask

- What drug was involved in the original reaction?
- How long ago was the reaction?
- Describe what happened during the reaction.
 - Examples suggestive of **IgE reaction**: face/throat swelling, itching with rash, hives, wheezing, dizziness or fainting
 - Examples suggestive of **mild non-IgE reactions or drug intolerance**: isolated nausea and/or vomiting
 - Examples suggestive of **severe systemic or cutaneous adverse reactions**: blistering or peeling skin, mouth or other mucous membrane involvement, drug fever associated with organ damage/dysfunction, increased eosinophils (lab test), severely decreased platelets (lab test) not due to other causes
- Did you have to go see a doctor, call an ambulance or go to the hospital for the reaction?

Algorithm – Based on Responses to Questions Above

