*(TEMPLATE ONLY: PLEASE MODIFY TO YOUR NEEDS)*

**THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**PROCLAMATION**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2018: NATIONAL PENICILLIN ALLERGY DAY**

**WHEREAS,** penicillin is the most commonly reported drug allergy with 10% of all US patients—30 million Americans, or more than 730,000 Washingtonians—reporting having an allergic reaction to a penicillin-class antibiotic in their past1; and

**WHEREAS,** penicillin allergy history is often inaccurate, with research showing that 9 out of 10 patients reporting as penicillin allergic—about 27 million Americans, or up to 656,000 Washingtonians—are not truly allergic to penicillin1; and

**WHEREAS,** inaccurate diagnosis of penicillin allergy can adversely impact medical costs for both patients and healthcare systems: research shows that antibiotic costs for patients reporting penicillin allergies are up to 63% higher than for those who do not report being penicillin-allergic2; and

**WHEREAS,** in the hospital setting, history of penicillin allergy translates to about 10% more hospital days, 30% higher incidence of VRE infections, 23% higher incidence of *C difficile* infections, and 14% higher incidence of MRSA infections2; and

**WHEREAS,** these adverse events occur because penicillin “allergic” patients are given more broad spectrum antibiotics2, which contributes to the public health problem of antibiotic resistance3; and

**WHEREAS,** National Penicillin Allergy Day is being organized to raise awareness of false penicillin allergy and encourage the de-labeling of patients erroneously labeled as penicillin-allergic by promoting penicillin allergy skin testing;

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2018 as

***National Penicillin Allergy Day***

In Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

**References:**

1. Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters representing the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Drug allergy: an updated practice parameter. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2010 Oct;105(4):259-273
2. Macy, E. M., & Contreras, R. (2014). Healthcare Utilization and Serious Infection Prevalence Associated With Penicillin “Allergy” In Hospitalized Patients: A Cohort Study. *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology,* *133*(2). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2013.09.021>
3. Dellit, TH, Owens, RC, McGowan JE, Jr et al. Infectious Disease Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidmiology of America Guidelines for Developing Institutional Programs to Enhance Antimicrobial Stewardship. Clin Infect Dis. 2007;44-150-77.