

# WAY 2

## PRE-PEN® (benzylpenicilloyl polylysine injection USP): Penicillin Allergy Skin Testing

Implementing penicillin skin testing throughout your health system can lower antibiotic costs, support stewardship initiatives and allow access to an affordable, well-tolerated treatment option for patients.

**President & CEO:** Jose A. Moreno Toscano

**Founded:** 1923

**Employees:** 1,500

**Stock Symbol:** ALKB

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### Company Background

ALK is a research driven global pharmaceutical company focusing on allergy diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for allergic people.

### Product Overview

PRE-PEN (benzylpenicilloyl polylysine injection USP) is the only FDA approved skin test for the diagnosis of penicillin allergy. PRE-PEN (benzylpenicilloyl polylysine USP) is administered through prick/puncture and intradermal skin testing and may quickly identify patients who can safely receive beta-lactam antibiotics.

### Additional Product Resources

For assistance with implementing penicillin skin testing in your hospital, contact ALK for resources such as:

- In Service Training
- Patient Supply Kits
- Training Video
- Implementation Guide
- Patient Education Materials
- Physician Communication Tools

### Departments That Can Benefit

Penicillin skin testing can be implemented throughout the hospital in many departments including:

- Pharmacy
- Infectious Disease
- ICU
- Pre-Admissions Testing/Surgery
- E.D.
- Pulmonology

### Product Benefits

Up to 90% of patients who claim an allergy to penicillin are not truly allergic when assessed by skin testing.<sup>(1)</sup> This over-reporting often results in the over-prescribing of broad spectrum alternative antibiotics that contribute to the growing problem of antibiotic resistance.<sup>(2)</sup> The choice of broad spectrum antibiotics, such as vancomycin or quinolones, is more costly and more likely to have adverse effects.<sup>(3)</sup>

#### ■ Penicillin Skin Testing Benefits

- **Combating Drug Resistance** - Inappropriate use of broad spectrum antibiotics puts all patients at greater risk due to the development of drug resistance pathogens. *Penicillin skin testing can be used to decrease the use of broad spectrum antibiotics such as vancomycin and fluorquinolones which supports antibiotic stewardship efforts.*<sup>(4)</sup>
- **Improved Antibiotic Selection** - Treatment should be disease focused, not allergy focused. Penicillin is one of the most useful antimicrobial agents. *It is highly effective and generally not toxic.*<sup>(5)</sup>
- **Reduced Antibiotic Costs** - Penicillin skin testing can lower health care costs and the financial burden on health systems without adversely impacting quality of care by allowing access to more cost-effective treatment options. *The average cost of antibiotics for patients with a beta-lactam allergy is up to 60% higher compared to those without.*<sup>(6)</sup>

### Ordering Information

For more information on how to bring this important diagnostic tool to your hospital, contact us at [prepen@alk.net](mailto:prepen@alk.net).

Orders for PRE-PEN (benzylpenicilloyl polylysine injection USP) can be placed with your wholesaler partner, by calling ALK Customer Service or by emailing us at [prepen@alk.net](mailto:prepen@alk.net).

(1) Salkind, JAMA, Vol. 285, No. 19, May 2001; (2) Arroliga, Mercedes. Cleveland Clinic Journ. Vol 70; Apr 2003. Pp 313-326.; (3) Blanca, et al. Continued need of appropriate beta-lactam derived skin test reagents for the management of allergy to beta-lactams. Clinical and Experimental Allergy, 37, 166-173.; (4) Arroliga, Mercedes. Cleveland Clinic Journ. Vol 70; Apr 2003. Pp 313-326.; (5) Arroliga, Mercedes. Cleveland Clinic Journ. Vol 70; Apr 2003. Pp 313-326.; (6) Park, Miguel Mayo Clinic Proc. March 2005; 80(3):405 - 410.