



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, penicillin is the most commonly reported drug allergy with 10% of all US patients, or 30 million Americans, reporting having an allergic reaction to a penicillin-class antibiotic in their past; and

WHEREAS, penicillin allergy history is often inaccurate, with research showing that 9 out of 10 patients reporting as penicillin allergic are not truly allergic to penicillin; 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-allergic; 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 infections; and

WHEREAS, these adverse events occur because penicillin allergic patients are given more broad spectrum antibiotics, which contributes to the public health problem of antibiotic resistance; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim September 28, 2017 as

Penicillin Allergy Day

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this seventh day of September, 2017.

Handwritten signature of Bill Haslam in blue ink.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Scott Briggitt in blue ink.

Secretary of State

