



Inappropriate Antibiotic Allergy Documentation in Medical Files: A Qualitative Study on Family Physicians' and Pharmacists' Experiences

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Ann Fam Med 2020;18(4):iii. <https://doi.org/10.1370/afm.2578>.

The *Annals of Family Medicine* encourages readers to develop a learning community to improve health care and health through enhanced primary care. Participate by conducting a journal club. We encourage diverse participants to think critically about important issues affecting primary care and act on those discussions.¹

HOW IT WORKS

In each issue, the *Annals* selects an article and provides discussion tips and questions. Post a summary of your conversation in our online discussion. (Open the article and click on the eLetters tab, and submit a comment.) Discussion questions and information are online at: <https://www.AnnFamMed.org/content/AJC>.

CURRENT SELECTION

Article for Discussion

De Clercq K, Cals JWL, de Bont EGPM. Inappropriate antibiotic allergy documentation in health records: a qualitative study on family physicians' and pharmacists' experiences. *Ann Fam Med*. 2020;18(4):326-333.

Discussion Tips

Qualitative research offers an opportunity to gain a richer understanding of why things are happening. As clinicians, we have pondered similar questions the researchers asked family physicians and pharmacists about antibiotic allergies. Consider how you deal with patient-reported allergies as a physician. How granular are your system's reporting mechanisms? Is your electronic medical record connected to the pharmacist's medical record?

Discussion Questions

- What question is asked by this study and why does it matter?
- How does this study advance beyond previous

research and clinical practice on this topic?

- What is a focus group? How strong is this study design for answering the question? What are weaknesses of this type of study?
 - What is saturation?
- What methods did the authors use to minimize bias in the conduct and analysis of the study?
- To what degree can the findings be accounted for by:
 1. How participants were selected or excluded?
 2. How the findings were interpreted?
- What are the main study findings?
 - How did you feel about the grouping of quotes into 3 main categories?
 - Did the highlighted quotes support the analysis? Did you identify with any of the quotes?
 - What is a fish-bone diagram? Does it help you understand what is going on here?
- How comparable is the study sample to your location? What is your judgment about the transportability of the findings?
 - Do you relate to the focus group participants?
- What contextual factors are important for interpreting the findings?
 - What is an allergy registration?
- How might this study change your practice? Policy? Education? Research?
- What challenges do you see with trying to improve the reporting of antibiotic allergies?
- What are the next steps in interpreting or applying the findings?
- What researchable questions remain?

References

1. Stange KC, Miller WL, McLellan LA, et al. *Annals Journal Club: It's time to get RADICAL*. *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4(3):196-197. <https://AnnFamMed.org/cgi/content/full/4/3/196>.