Drug Challenge Patient Information

Before the Challenge:

- **3-5 days before**, stop all anti-histamines
- **Continue** taking prescribed medicines, including asthma medicines and inhalers, eczema creams and ointments unless the allergy team tells you otherwise
- **Morning of the test**, eat a light breakfast.
- You must be free from fever, wheezing, or other significant illness.

Day of the Challenge:

- Please arrive 20 minutes early for your appointment to be sure we can start the challenge on time.
- Before the challenge, your provider will examine you, particularly evaluating breathing and looking for any rashes. Your vital signs will also be evaluated.
- The challenge starts with a small dose of medication
- On average, there will be 2 doses of gradually increasing amounts of the medication that will be given over about an hour.
- After the last dose of medication, you must stay in clinic to be monitored, so that we can be sure that you do not have a reaction. The total time of the drug challenge will be about 2 hours.
- If you have a reaction, the challenge will be stopped and you will be treated for the reaction.
- If you tolerate a full dose of the medication, you are then considered NOT allergic to that medication.

What do you need to bring?

- **Your medication.** Our office will send in a prescription for the drug to be challenged to the pharmacy listed in your chart. You will need to pick up the medication and bring it with you to the appt.
- Water
- Things to occupy yourself or your child.

After the Challenge

- You should have no problems after you are home. Although rare, it is possible that you could have a late onset or delayed reaction. Contact our office if you have any issues.
- Results- If you did not have symptoms of an allergic reaction during your challenge:
    - You will pass!
    - We will remove the allergy designation in your chart!
    - You will be able to use the medication as needed!

Questions?

- To help avoid unexpected surprises, it may be helpful to check with your insurance company to determine coverage for your drug challenge. The CPT Codes (Procedure Codes) your insurance company may ask you for are: 95076 (first two hours) and 95079 (each additional hour, as needed)

- **If you have any questions, please call our office at 757-499-4101**