Management of Hypersensitivity Reactions

Penicillin Allergy History

Immediate reaction
- Severe anaphylaxis
- Angioedema
- Hypotension
- Bronchospasm
  - Treatment Options
  - Consider non-cross-reactive cephalosporins (including cefazolin) or carbapenems.
  - Avoid penicillins and cross-reactive cephalosporins.
  - Consider ID consult, for possible BLAST testing or desensitization.

Non-severe
- Isolated urticaria

Delayed reaction
- Severe SJS/TEN, DRESS, serum sickness-like reaction, cytopenia, organ involvement (e.g., nephritis)
  - Treatment Options
  - Avoid all beta-lactams.
  - Avoid desensitization or drug challenge.

Non-severe
- Itching, mild/moderate rash (no fever or organ involvement)

Unknown reaction
- Remote (>10 year) history without features of an immediate reaction
- Vague history
  - Treatment Options
  - Consider carbapenems or cephalosporins.