ONE THING YOU CAN DO TODAY TO IMPROVE ANTIMICROBIAL USE

DO NOT AVOID ALL BETA LACTAMS IN PATIENTS REPORTING PENICILLIN ALLERGIES

Penicillin allergy is over-reported
Cross-allergy between penicillins and cephalosporins or carbapenems is overestimated.

Take a complete history
Is the reaction:

TRUE ALLERGY? VS SIDE EFFECT?

SEVERE OR LIFE THREATENING?

Patients without a history of severe reaction may receive other beta lactam agents.

Unnecessary avoidance of beta lactams can result in therapy that is:

- less effective
- more toxic
- associated with a greater risk of developing antibiotic-resistant organisms

For more information regarding antimicrobial stewardship:
Visit www.publichealthontario.ca/asp,
or contact Public Health Ontario at asp@oahpp.ca.