

Entering an Allergy in ECW 11e

It is very important to add drug allergies correctly. If a drug allergy is not entered as structured data, the drug allergy checking system will fail, and a patient could be seriously harmed.

The screenshot shows the 'Allergies' interface. At the top, the word 'Structured' is highlighted in a red box. Below it, there is a search bar with 'Drug Based' selected and 'Medisp...' as a filter. The main table has a header with 'Agent/Substance' and 'Reaction'. A row for 'Rubber' with a reaction of 'rash' is visible. A dropdown menu is open below the 'Rubber' row, showing a list of items: 'avocado', 'banana', 'bee sting', 'bird dander', 'cat dander', and 'corn'. The word 'Unstructured' is highlighted in a red box within this dropdown menu. At the bottom right of the dropdown, there is a yellow highlight that says 'this substance from'.

In this example, the rubber allergy is unstructured. Most non-drug allergies must be added as unstructured, but all drug allergies should be entered as structured data.

In this screen, I have entered an allergy (using MedispanRx – so this is structured) to nitrofurantoin.

The screenshot shows the 'Allergies' interface with a search for 'nitrofurantoin'. The 'Rx' icon is present next to the search bar. The main table shows a list of items: 'Nitrofurantoin', 'Nitrofurantoin Macrocrystal', 'Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Ma...', and 'Nitrofurazone'. The details for the selected item are shown on the right, including 'Reaction(s)' (anaphylaxis), 'Criticality' (High), 'Type' (Allergy), 'Status' (Active), and 'Onset Date' (05/14/2019). There are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom.

The screenshot shows the 'Allergies' interface with a search for 'Drug Based'. The 'Rx' icon is present next to the search bar. The main table has a header with 'Agent/Substance', 'Reaction', 'Type', 'Status', 'Criticality', and 'Onset Date'. The table contains three rows: 'Rubber' with reaction 'rash', 'Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro' with reaction 'anaphylaxis', and 'lisinopril' with reaction 'anaphylaxis'. The 'Rx' icon is highlighted in a red box next to the 'Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro' row. At the bottom, there is a dropdown menu with 'add/select a value and press Enter' and a '+' button.

	Agent/Substance	Reaction	Type	Status	Criticality	Onset Date	
	Rubber	rash	Allergy	Active			
	Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro	anaphylaxis	Allergy	Active	High	05/14/2019	
	lisinopril	anaphylaxis	Allergy	Active	High	05/14/2019	
	add/select a value and press Enter	add/select a value	--- Select ---	Active	Select		

The screen above shows nitrofurantoin as a structured allergy (with the “Rx” next to it). The lisinopril was entered by just typing the drug name in the box rather than using MedispanRx to search for it. The icon to the left of it indicates that it is unstructured, and not linked to an NDC code.

When I tried to prescribe nitrofurantoin to this patient, I got the following alert:

Allergy Interaction

■ According to the patient's reported allergy to 'Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro', ordering the selected medication will result in an allergic reaction. To continue with this selection, select a reason and click OK, or cancel to choose another medication.

Patient Allergy	Allergy Class	Allergy Type	Allergy Description
Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro	Nitrofurans Derivatives	Allergy - anaphylaxis	The use of Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro Oral Capsule 100 MG (Nitrofurans Derivatives) may result in an allergic reaction based on a reported history of allergy to Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro (Nitrofurans Derivatives).

Reason:

However, when I prescribed lisinopril to this patient, I got no alert at all. When the day gets busy, and there is a rush to finish a visit, checking for allergies prior to prescribing may be overlooked. The allergy alert system is there to act as a backup check when medications are prescribed. If a serious drug

Medication

lisinopril x < > ☆ ⚙ Lisinopril (\$ per day) ⓘ

	Strength	Form	Take	Route	Freq.	Duration	Disp
10 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 days	30	
20 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 days	30	
40 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once d day	30 days	30	
20 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 day(s)	30	
10 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 day(s)	30	
40 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 day(s)	30	
5 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 day(s)	30	
2.5 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 day(s)	30	

Generic Equivalent:

Selected Medicines

Assessment	Status	Medicine
I10 Essential hypertension	Start	Lisinopril 20 MG Tablet 1 tablet Orally Once a day for 30 days, Dispense: 30, Refills: 2
N30.90 Cystitis		

allergy is added incorrectly – without linking the drug to structured data – serious harm to the patient can occur. ALWAYS use the MedispanRx system when adding a drug allergy to the chart. If you come across an entry that is unstructured, correct it.

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