

# Entering an Allergy in ECW 11e

Allergies can be entered, deleted, and updated in a progress note, a Virtual Visit, or in the Hub.

Drug allergies entered in the box next to “Rx” are structured – meaning they are NDC-linked and will function both in the allergy alert system and the drug interaction system of eCW. Anything entered in the nondrug-based box is unstructured, as is anything free-texted into the allergy box shown just below the rubber allergy. ALWAYS enter drug allergies using MedispanRx in the drug-based box at the upper left of the screen below.

As the warning **highlighted in yellow states**, any drug allergy free-texted into the box just under the rubber allergy will fail to trigger both the allergy warnings as well as the drug interaction warnings – possibly leading to patient harm (or even death).

The screenshot shows the 'Allergies' management screen. At the top, there are tabs for 'Rx Drug Based Structured' and 'NonDrug Based Unstructured'. Below these is a table with columns: Agent/Substance, Reaction, Type, Status, Criticality, and Onset Date. A row for 'Rubber' is shown with a reaction of 'rash' and type 'Allergy'. Below this row is an input field with a dropdown menu currently set to 'Unstructured'. A yellow warning banner at the bottom of the table area reads: 'Manual free-text entry of an allergy will exclude this substance from automated drug-allergy checking and may endanger patient safety.' Navigation buttons for 'Med Reconciliation' and 'Surgical History' are at the bottom.

In this screen, I have entered an allergy to nitrofurantoin correctly – using the drug-based allergy box, which pulls the NDC number from MedispanRx.

This screenshot shows the 'Allergies' management screen with a structured allergy entry for 'nitrofurantoin'. The search bar contains 'nitrofurantoin' and the 'Rx Drug Based Structured' tab is selected. A dropdown menu on the left lists 'Nitrofurantoin', 'Nitrofurantoin Macrocrystal', 'Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Ma...', and 'Nitrofurazone'. The main form fields are: Reaction(s) 'anaphylaxis', Type 'Allergy', Status 'Active', Criticality 'High', and Onset Date '05/14/2019'. There are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom.

Allergies						
Agent/Substance	Reaction	Type	Status	Criticality	Onset Date	
Rx Rubber	rash	Allergy	Active			
Rx 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 number.

When prescribing 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	Nitrofurantoin Derivatives	Allergy - anaphylaxis	The use of Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro Oral Capsule 100 MG (Nitrofurantoin Derivatives) may result in an allergic reaction based on a reported history of allergy to Nitrofurantoin Monohyd Macro (Nitrofurantoin 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 allergy is added incorrectly, serious harm to the patient can occur. ALWAYS use the MedispanRx database when adding a drug allergy. If you come across an drug allergy that is unstructured, correct it.

Allergies to nondrugs – like cat dander, ragweed, bee strings, etc. – are handled as unstructured data by eCW, and can be free-texted into the allergy box.

Strength	Form	Take	Route	Freq.	Duration	Disp
10 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 days	30 Tablet
20 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 days	30 Tablet
40 MG	Tablet	1 tablet	Orally	Once a day	30 days	30 Tablet
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
R30.0 Dysuria		
I10 Essential (primary) hypertension	Start	Lisinopril 20 MG Tablet 1 tablet Orally Once a day for 30 days, Dispense: 30 Tablet, Refills: 3