

ired of the same old way to deal with your allergy emergencies?

If you suffer from allergies, you know the routine.

When you have an allergy emergency, e.g. a bee sting, a food or antibiotic reaction, hives, increasing asthma symptoms, or worsening nasal or eye environmental allergy symptoms, you're left to self-diagnose, buy over-the-counter medications and wait two months to get the earliest appointment with one of the other allergy practices in town.

EZ Allergy is poised to shift that paradigm by focusing on your needs for comfort and convenience while delivering the most safe and effective treatment and prevention options. As an example, the past insight article focused on the use of all-natural allergen immunotherapy tablets delivered under the tongue in the comfort of home to prevent environmental allergy symptoms, in lieu of allergy shots in the doctor's office.

This article will focus on EZ Allergy's plan to become Pittsburgh's first exclusive allergy practice to offer limited walk-in service and same-day appointments for those allergy emergencies. Our website, ezallergy.net, will keep you up-to-date on availability and limitations of that service. You will be able to schedule same-day appointments or walk in with symptoms such as runny, stuffy or itchy nose; watery, itchy or red eyes; hives; worsening eczema; insect sting reactions; headaches; stomach pain and vomiting. We can offer an accurate diagnosis of your allergies using our needleless allergy skin testing method, and find out if allergies are the trigger for your symptoms. We will also prescribe treatment for those symptoms to make you feel better quickly.

Of course, some allergy emergencies produce life-threatening anaphylaxis (breathing or swallowing difficulty, loss of consciousness) and must be treated immediately in the emergency department of a hospital (not in the EZ Allergy office). The good news is that, even then, you may be able to get in to see us the very next day to get your diagnosis, learn the cause of the symptoms, and learn what to avoid (and what NOT to avoid too).

If you become an EZ Allergy patient, you can also get quick service for the completion of those all-important school forms. These include the forms that list food allergies, give the school permission to administer auto-injectable epinephrine and antihistamines in case of anaphylaxis in the school setting, and use albuterol as needed for asthma symptoms or before exercise to prevent asthma symptoms.

If you hope to get allergy testing done, it is important to remember that we can only do that if you have been off antihistamines such as Zyrtec, Benadryl, Claritin, and Allegra for at least three days. Be sure to call ahead of time if you have questions.

About half of the population is allergic to a protein in food, something in the environment, or a drug. Aren't you anxious to find out if you're one of them?

Make an appointment at EZ Allergy (724.655.3000) or attend one of our upcoming free public education seminars with complimentary dinner to learn more! (Registration required at ezallergy.net.)

This **Industry Insight** was written by Dr. David P. Skoner.

Dr. David P. Skoner is board certified in both Pediatrics and Allergy-Immunology. He has had teaching, research, administrative and patient care roles at many prestigious universities, including the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Temple University School of Medicine and West Virginia University School of Medicine.

Dr. Skoner has been recognized as one of the "Most Influential Doctors" by USA Today and "A Top Doctor" by U.S. News. He has written more than 250 articles and given more than 500 presentations on respiratory disease in over 60 countries on six continents.

He also co-founded the Nemacolin International Asthma Conference, now in its 12th year

Dr. Skoner has established two nonprofit organizations, For Your Good Health—designed to keep children with allergy and asthma active—and Maci's TEAMS, aimed at keeping those children safe on medications.



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