

A Broker's Guide to Allergy Testing Therapists

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Allergy testing therapists, are health professionals who work in alternative therapy. The goal of allergy testing therapists is to improve patient quality of life by providing long-lasting treatment for seasonal and perennial allergies.

A trained health professional should perform and interpret allergy tests. In the case of a more complicated assessment, doctors often refer patients to an allergist if their allergy symptoms last longer than two weeks and keep returning. An acute sinus or allergy problem typically lasts no more than four weeks; however, chronic ones can last up to 12 weeks.

Over the next five years, demand for allergy testing therapists is expected to increase in Canada and worldwide - and they will require specialist professional liability coverage. Read on to find out what trends are driving growth in this market, and what liability exposures healthcare professionals need to be aware of.

Market Size and Current Trends for Allergy Diagnostics

Globally, the food allergen testing market is forecasted to register a CAGR of 8.32% between 2020 and 2025. (1) This growth is fueled by a couple of factors.

Consumer awareness of the safety of food products they consume is expected to fuel the growth of the food allergen testing market. Additionally, advances in food safety practices have been prompted by the growing demand for fresh and appropriate products from consumers.

Growth in Food Allergies Worldwide

Various food safety incidents around the world are fueling the industry's growth. Nuts, milk, soy, and shellfish are the most commonly allergenic foods. Every year, approximately 420,000 people die after eating contaminated food, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Food-borne diseases are a major cause of death for children under the age of five, accounting for 40% of the burden. (1)

Seasonal Allergies Worsening Due to Climate Change

A later pollen season may make seasonal, airborne allergies worse in some parts of Canada. One professor and allergist at Queen's University says more patients than usual are reporting worsening allergy symptoms. Due to increased pollen levels in 2021 compared to 2020, this is not surprising. (2)

Liability Exposures for Allergy Testing Therapists

When a patient consults an allergy testing therapist, they can look forward to the following results:

- A better quality of life
- Treatment for the cause of allergic disease, rather than just the symptoms
- Permanent relief from allergy symptoms (for most allergy-sufferers)
- No more unpleasant side effects from allergy medication
- No more missed work due to their allergies
- Saved money by avoiding lost time at work and allergy medications

Although medical professionals are required to follow strict ethical guidelines, they will occasionally encounter errors, omissions, third-party damage, or a simply unhappy patient who decides to file a lawsuit against them.

- Allergy tests can be costly. For example, a patient may decide to claim malpractice for a wrong diagnosis or if the allergy diagnosis causes adverse outcomes to the patient's health.
- An allergy testing therapist may also be accused of malpractice for failure to order proper testing, failure to recognize symptoms, disregarding a patient's history, administering improper medication or dosage, ignoring or misreading lab results, and poor follow-up or aftercare.

Medical malpractice insurance is a must-have for all health professionals, but rarely are these products geared toward the needs of a specific practitioner. Here, MedThree can help.

The MedThree Advantage

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Sources:

1. <https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/food-allergen-testing-market>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/cities-seasonal-allergies-symptoms-worsening-climate-change-1.5256496>