

## Action Line Tests for allergies to medicine

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Q. My husband is allergic to penicillin and a number of other medicines. Whenever he takes any of them he gets a severe reaction. I've had to take him to the hospital to counteract this allergic reaction. He has gone to an allergist and has had scratch tests twice, but the tests told revealed nothing about particular medicines that he might be allergic to. Maybe a new test has come out that we don't know about. Can you find out?

H.F., Pawtucket

A. Allergy tests are available for penicillin, carbenicillin and keflex at the Allergy Clinic of Rhode Island Hospital, says Dr. Elaine Waters of the clinic staff. Each test costs \$3.50 after a fee for the initial visit ranging from \$55 to \$66, depending on extent of the evaluation. The clinic is booked into mid-July. For an appointment, call 277-5641.

Q. I'd like some information about SCORE, an organization of retired business officials. I understand it helps underprivileged people establish themselves in business. Before I retired after 30 years, I frequently taught a class of young people as an adjunct to my business, which was in the travel field.

P.B., Bristol

A. SCORE, acronym for Service Corps of Retired Executives, is a federally funded agency that gives free counsel to people in small business or who contemplate starting a small business. SCORE members are all volunteers and receive remuneration only for travel and parking expenses, according to a spokeswoman. The main office in Rhode Island is at 380 Westminster Mall, Providence 02903 (528-4571). Satellite offices are in Pawtucket, Warwick, Newport, Westerly and Woonsocket. SCORE members meet the second Wednesday of the month. For a brochure or an appointment, call or write the Providence office.

Wants to know the SCORE Feedback **Straight makes kids toe the line**

**In response to your recent article about Toughlove (Action Line, May 7), Straight Inc., a teenage drug treatment program with centers in four major cities - St. Petersburg, Fla., Atlanta, Cincinnati and Washington, D.C. - has formed an organizing committee to establish a program in the Rhode Island area. The group meets on a regular basis and deals with family problems caused by adolescent drug use. Straight has a success ratio of over 70 percent in dealing with young people who are experiencing a drug use problem and is one of the most successful programs of its kind in the country. Anyone interested in more information about the group can call me.**

**Bill Sullivan**

**Touisset**

**245-5193**

**Sullivan, a banker with two sons in the Straight program, says teenagers who enter the Straight treatment initially spend between 2 weeks and 1 1/2 months enrolled full-time in the program at one of the treatment centers. The amount of time spent in the center tapers off after that, depending on progress, with a participating "host home" often serving as a residence. The host family includes another youngster who's going or gone through Straight. "The philosophy of the program is peers got them on drugs, peers will get them off drugs," says Sullivan, who swears the program has worked "miracles" with his sons.**

**We also called the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, since Straight is headquartered in Florida. Mental health program analyst Horace Tolle says Straight is a "a rather rigid regime" that "has been known to be somewhat controversial." His department, in fact, has looked into complaints of the program detaining youths who wanted to leave.**

**But Tolle says neither the rigidity nor the complaints are unusual for a drug treatment program, and he says the complaints have been worked out to the state's satisfaction. Overall, he says, Straight is "a well-motivated organization" fully licensed by the state and enjoying a good deal of support nationwide.**

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