**Unit 14—Allergy: An Overview**

Objectives

Upon completing this unit, you should be able to:

* Define the terms listed in the vocabulary.
* Describe the reaction between allergens and IgE antibodies.
* List the most common allergens that may cause allergy.
* State the classic symptoms of allergy.
* List factors other than allergens that may trigger symptoms of allergy.
* Describe allergic rhinitis (hay fever).
* List the most common causes of hay fever in the United States according to the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology.
* Describe how the physician determines the diagnosis of allergy.
* State the importance of the patient history.
* Describe the following diagnostic allergy tests: scratch (epicutaneous) or prick, patch, in- tradermal, laboratory, nasal smears, and sinus X-rays.
* Describe the following treatment regimens that may be prescribed for allergic patients: avoid- ance of allergens, drug therapy, and immunotherapy.
* Describe the medical assistant’s responsibilities with regard to the administration of allergenic extracts.
* Answer the review questions correctly.