

	Policies & Procedures Title: LATEX ALLERGY I.D. Number: 1011
Authorization: [X] SHR Nursing Practice Committee	Source: Nursing Date Revised: September 2011 Date Effective: October 2000 Scope: SASKATOON CITY HOSPITAL ROYAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To protect the patient and or employee with a known or suspected latex allergy from contact with latex during hospitalization and while providing nursing care.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The latex allergy procedure shall be followed for all patients identified as "Latex allergic" or at high risk for developing latex allergies. See Appendix A.
- 2.2 **Everyone must be diligent and are accountable to read the existing package and specific item labels when determining if a product is Latex-free.**

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Obtain allergy history from patient and ensure patient has red allergy Identification band.
- 3.2 If patient scheduled for surgery, phone the Operating Room to inform them of the allergy as well confirm it on the OR chart.
- 3.3 Allergy status **must be** documented on: Medication Reconciliation form, Medication Administration Record, Care plan and Physician order.
- 3.4 Obtain latex allergy kit for nursing units from SPD.
Note: OR, Emergency, PACU (SCH only), PICU, Labor & Delivery, have their own latex allergy kits.

On general units SPD Latex Allergy Kit will accompany patient as they move through the hospital.

The kit from SPD – SKU # 6342 contains:

LATEX ALLERGY KIT**Supplies:**

- 1 bx. NITRILE GLOVES LARGE 61430
- 4 Ea. TOURNIQUET LATEX FREE 46737
- 4 SURGEON'S GLOVES LATEX FREE SIZE 7 79002
- 4 SURGEON'S GLOVES LATEX FREE SIZE 7 1/2 79003
- 4 GLOVE LINER MEDIUM 88295
- 2 STOPCOCK 4-WAY 40090
- 4 MALE/FEMALE LUER LOCK PLUGS 40095
- 1 IV EXTENSION SET (OBTAIN FROM SPH WHEN OUT) 62005
- 1 FOLEY CATH SILICONE 14FR 85560
- 1 SOFROLL 4" 46320
- LATEX ALLERGY SIGN

Note: See Appendix B for a list of supplies that either contain latex and or are latex-free.

- 3.5 Place a "Latex Allergy" sign at the head of the patient's bed.
- 3.6 Place a copy of Latex Allergy Guidelines in the chart with the care plan. See Appendix C.
- 3.7 Ensure using a latex-free blood pressure cuff (will be labeled "latex-free") or if unsure, wrap the patient's arm with Sofroll gauze before taking their BP.
- 3.8 Use non latex gloves for procedures or treatments as indicated.
- 3.9 Use sterile non latex gloves and silicone Foley catheters for bladder catheterization. Use EZ-lok sampling method when withdrawing urine sample from urine drainage system. See Appendix B for Latex free urine bag drainage systems.
- 3.10 I.V. & Tubing
 - 3.10.1 IV solutions are Latex-Free including ports. Access tubing via needleless system.
 - 3.10.2 ALL of Baxter's premixed products in minibags (Amiodarone, Norepinephrine, Magnesium Sulfate) are prepared in non-Latex bags using non-latex gloves by pharmacy in the admixing process, therefore are considered Latex-free products. Dopamine is commercially available and is latex-free from Hospira.
 - 3.10.3 Ensure that Pharmacy is notified and Latex Allergy is flagged for their attention.
 - 3.10.4 If patient has arrived with an established IV/ tubing and you are unsure if it is Latex free cover all latex ports on IV tubing with transparent tape and attach stopcock to give IV medications. Change solution and tubing as soon as possible.
- 3.11 Remove the stoppers from all vials if uncertain if latex- free (ie. medication, NS, H2O) before drawing up. Remember that each supplier of these products may vary. If unsure please use a bottle opener or hemostat to open vials.
- 3.12 Use Opsite, Hypafix or Mepore for dressings. Use transparent or transpore tape to secure IV's. DO NOT use elastoplast.

3.13 Document "Latex Allergy" on ALL Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging requisitions. Ensure all Doctors Order Sheet identify patient as LATEX ALLERGIC.

3.14 Unused kit items and/or kit do not require to be returned to SPD.

4. REFERENCE LIST

Filon FL, & Radman G. (2006). Latex allergy: a follow up study of 1040 healthcare workers. Occup Environ Med. 63(2), 121-5

Going latex safe. Health Hazard Manage Monit 2005; 18(12):1-8

<http://www.hospira.ca/english/transition.aspx> August 2008

www.osha.gov/SLTC/latexallergy updated September 2008

www.spinabifidaassociation.org "Latex in Home and Community" updated summer of 2010

Appendix A

The number one risk factor for developing or exacerbating a latex allergy is repeated exposure to latex.

Example:

- patients with spina bifida or severe urogenital defects who require frequent hospitalizations and therefore exposure to latex present in the hospital
- health care workers (especially OR & ICU staff) or dental workers

Presenting symptoms of latex allergy

- contact dermatitis, itching
- rhinitis, facial edema
- asthma
- wheezing or shortness of breath
- urticaria
- conjunctivitis or swelling around the eyes
- anaphylaxis after exposure-including hypotension, tachycardia, bronchospasm, respiratory arrest

Treatment for latex reaction

1. Treat as you would for an anaphylactic reaction of any kind – Epinephrine, steroids, antihistamines.
2. Termination of surgical procedure.
3. Ensure patient is aware that they are or may be allergic to latex.

Appendix B**The following items are latex-free:**

- Adult - Pulse oximetry finger sensor
- Anti-emboli stockings (old stock may contain Latex)
- Atrium Oasis chest drainage unit
- Cardiac monitor cables
- Clave (needleless) products
- Flexi-Seal Fecal Management System and Collection bag
- Gloves – vinyl, nitrile, neoprene
- Glove liners
- IV solutions
- IV tubing
- Jackson-Pratts, Hemovac drains
- Laryngeal Mask Airways
- Medela Breast pump/parts
- Mesh Panties (lycra)
- Oxygen tubing, prongs, and masks
- Plastic bags
- Plastic stopcocks
- Razors
- Silastic items
- Syringes:
 - Plastic syringes – Monoject
 - Saline flushes – preload
- Tapes:
 - Micropore tape
 - Opsite dressing
 - Pink water-proof tape (Leukoplast) 1"- 44610 and 2"- 44620
- Tubes/Tubing:
 - Clear plastic suction tubing
 - Clear rectal tubes
 - Endotracheal tubes
 - NG Tubes (Salem Sump Set)
 - Nestle Gravity Tube Feed Administration Set
 - Patrol Flexiflo Pump Set and tube feed bag
- Urine Drainage bags – 2 , 4 Litre, & Uri-meter
- Venti-masks
- Welsh Allen thermometer covers

The following items contain latex:

- Anti-emboli stockings (new stock are Latex-free)
- Arrow percutaneous Introducer kits
- Black rubber oxygen masks and airways
- Bladder irrigation tray (bulb syringe contains latex)
- Blood culture bottles – rubber tops
- Co-Ban / Co-Plus
- Coverplast standard bandaides
- Elastoplast tape
- Fleet enemas
- Foley catheters
- Latex gloves
- Latex tourniquets
- MedPro crutches has latex accessories (crutch tip, underarm pads, hand grips)
- Neonatal Pulse Oximeters
- Penrose drains
- Slider boards (cover to avoid contact)
- Tensoplast
- Theraband – used in Therapies
- Tomo-pen tip covers
- Urine/bile leg bag

Note:

- *Lists may not be inclusive. Call Manufacturer direct for further product information if necessary.*
- *When requesting and ordering Latex-Free (LF) products through SPD / Materials Management please indicate LF on product form.*

Appendix C

LATEX ALLERGY Guidelines for patient care

DO	DON'T USE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap patient's arm with Sofroll gauze before taking BP, unless using latex-free BP cuff. • Wear non-latex gloves: vinyl, nitrile, or neoprene • Use only silicone foley catheters • Use stopcock to give IV push medications when using IV tubing that is not "latex-free". • Remove rubber stopper from all vials before drawing up if unsure if product is latex-free. • LABEL all chart paper, charts and requisitions with "LATEX ALLERGY" • Ensure pharmacy is aware of allergy • Use Opsite • Use Hypafix or Mepore • Use transparent tape • Use Welch Allyn thermometer covers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latex gloves • Penrose drains • Rubber tourniquets • Foley catheters • Elastoplast (tensoplast) tape • Black rubber airways and masks • Urine /Bile leg bag. SKU # 40280 • Blood Culture bottles