

Managing Patients with Latex Allergies

PURPOSE

To limit exposure to latex in patients with latex allergy or sensitivity.

POLICY

1. Develop a list of latex free products available in the warehouse.
 - Ask manufacturers for lists of their products that contain latex, are latex free or low latex allergen products and update regularly.
 - It may not always be possible to find a latex-free alternative for every product.
2. Obtain history of allergies or sensitivities from each patient and document in the medical record. Staff may need to ask specifically about latex and provide the patient with examples.
3. Notify all disciplines involved with patient care of latex allergy / sensitivity.
4. Post a latex precaution sign at the home and mark the patient's medical record prominently with this information.
5. Use only latex-free or vinyl gloves when in direct patient contact.
6. For medication delivery:
 - use only glass or latex-free syringes
 - glass ampules to replace latex-sealed vials whenever possible
 - use nylon tourniquets for venipuncture
 - use only latex-free injection caps / connectors or directly connect tubing to IV catheter
 - use IV tubing without injection ports or apply tape over Y-sites to avoid accidental access
7. Use plastic or silk tape in place of adhesive tape and elastic bandages containing latex.
8. Limit patient contact with bulb of blood pressure cuff and rubber tubing.
9. Instruct patient and family regarding other potential sources of latex in the home (i.e., balloons, latex paint, rubber bands, pacifiers, baby bottle nipples, dishwashing gloves, hot water bottles, erasers).
10. Obtain physician's order for treatment of allergic / anaphylactic reaction. Instruct patient and family in the use of the anaphylaxis kit or Epi-Pen® as ordered by the physician.
11. Complete an Incident / Quality Assessment Report on any patient who develops

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a latex allergy or sensitivity while receiving CarePro Homecare services.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Pharmacy and Clinical Specialist have responsibility for approval of, compliance with, and revisions to this policy.

MODIFICATION/REVISION

This policy is subject to modification or revision in part or its entirety to reflect changes in conditions subsequent to the effective date of this policy.

Resource: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/latex/>

REFERENCES

1. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice – Revised 2016; Journal of Infusion Nursing, Supplement to January/February 2016, Volume 39, Number 1S.
2. Infusion Nursing: An Evidence-Based Approach, Third Edition edited by Mary Alexander, Ann Corrigan, Lisa Gorski, Judy Hankins, and Roxanne Perucca.
3. INS (Infusion Nurses Society) Policies and Procedures for Infusion Nursing, 3rd Edition.