



LATEX SENSITIVITY



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

As health care providers, we are acutely aware of the fact that many individuals are latex sensitive, and being exposed to these products can result in severe sensitivity reactions.

Every effort should be made to maintain a reduced latex environment for identified patients.

Latex Sensitivity High Risk Factors

Individuals at risk for latex allergy generally are those with a history of:

1. Identified hypersensitivity reaction to latex products such as sneezing, itching eyes, hives, wheezing or anaphylaxis.
2. Eczema from latex gloves.
3. Spina bifida or any urogenital abnormality requiring frequent use of latex catheters.
4. Multiple surgical procedures in infancy.
5. Employment in the manufacture of rubber products.
6. Allergies to bananas, chestnuts, kiwi, or avocados.
7. Atopic dermatitis.

Reasonable efforts will be made to identify prehospital patients who may be allergic to latex products. Following identification of these patients, efforts will be made to maintain a latex reduced environment.

Procedure

1. Identify the patient as latex-sensitive by obtaining their history and noting any of the high-risk indicators above.



Approved: 10/01/2011
Version: 3.1

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2. Products containing latex that have the potential to come into contact with the patient's skin, or more importantly their mucous membranes, should be avoided.

Latex-free gloves and medical products should be used.

Maintain a reduced latex environment during patient care.

3. If already wearing latex gloves, refrain from removing gloves in the presence of the patient. Remove gloves away from the patient.
4. If the patient exhibits signs and symptoms of allergic reaction, refer to the appropriate treatment protocol.
5. If the patient is allergic to latex, document.



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