



NON-HOSPITAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL FACILITIES
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Accreditation Standards

Latex Allergy

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INTRODUCTION

Latex allergy management requires creating awareness of the potential for latex allergy and taking the appropriate steps to provide a latex-safety environment for patients. The sensitivity to latex varies from patient to patient and symptoms can range from mild (e.g. redness) to severe (e.g. anaphylaxis). Latex sensitivity symptoms can also become worse with repeated exposure. Therefore, minimizing latex exposure for latex sensitive patients is essential.

ALGY1.0 LATEX ALLERGY

ALGY1.1	Patients with a known or suspected latex sensitivity or allergy are identified.
ALGY1.1.1	<p>M All patients are assessed preoperatively for latex sensitivity risk factors. <i>Guidance: All patients should be assessed for potential latex allergies. Questions should enquire about reactions to latex gloves, balloons or condoms; food and fruit allergies; repeated exposure to latex products because of multiple surgeries or occupation (e.g. healthcare workers, hairdressers, janitors). Some food allergies are known to coexist with latex sensitivity or allergy and therefore may be useful for identifying patients with potential latex sensitivity or allergy. High cross-reactivity foods include banana, avocado, kiwi fruit and chestnut. Moderate cross-reactivity foods include apple, carrot, celery, melons, papaya, potato and tomato.</i></p>
ALGY1.1.2	<p>M Patients with a sensitivity or allergy to latex are identified with an allergy alert wristband.</p>
ALGY1.1.3	<p>M The medical record of any patient with a sensitivity or allergy to latex is labelled or flagged. <i>Guidance: A warning sticker or flag should appear on the front of the patient's medical record to alert staff that the medical record contains important information about the patient's sensitivity or allergy status.</i></p>
ALGY1.1.4	<p>M The patient's sensitivity or allergy status is clearly documented throughout the medical record. <i>Guidance: The patient's allergy status should be documented on all referral and booking forms, admission forms, the OR slate.</i></p>
ALGY1.2	Patients with a known or suspected latex sensitivity or allergy are appropriately managed.

ALGY1.2.1	M	Latex precautions are implemented for patients with a sensitivity or allergy to latex. <i>Guidance: Latex sensitivity/allergy should be noted on the OR schedule and, as per ORNAC, the patient should be booked as the first case of the day if possible. If this is not possible, then the OR ventilation system is given significant time to remove all traces of airborne latex proteins when latex products have been used during the previous procedure. Only latex-free gloves are used. All latex-containing products are removed from the patient care area.</i>
ALGY1.2.2	M	A list of supplies that contain latex for which there are no latex-free alternatives is maintained. <i>Guidance: The facility should develop, maintain and regularly update its list of supplies that contain latex products and their substitutes if available. Updated lists of non-latex products are available on the following websites: the Spina Bifida Association of America (www.sbaa.org) and American Latex Allergy Association (http://latexallergyresources.org/medical-products).</i>
ALGY1.3		Policies and procedures contain all the information necessary for the safety of patients, staff and visitors. <i>Intent: Policies and procedures ensure that activities/procedures are performed consistently and accurately by all personnel within the non-hospital facility.</i>
ALGY1.3.1	M	There is policy and procedures for the safety of patients with a sensitivity or allergy to latex. <i>Guidance: Latex sensitivity and allergy policy and procedures address the identification and management of patients with a known or suspected latex allergy or sensitivity.</i>



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