



ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Patient Safety

LATEX ALLERGY

A latex-safe environment is provided for patients with a known or suspected latex allergy.

A facility-wide program to manage patients with a known or suspected latex allergy is in place

INDICATORS:

- Written policy and procedures are in place to ensure the safety of patients with a known or suspected latex allergy
- Staff are educated in the precautions, care and treatment of patients with a known or suspected latex allergy
- Latex allergy precautions are communicated (e.g. armband, health care record, OR schedule, bed, room entrance)
- Facility maintains a list of all products which contain latex
- Facility maintains a list of non-latex substitutes for medical supplies and devices
- Powder-free, low-protein gloves or non-latex gloves should be used throughout the facility to reduce exposure to airborne latex particles
- If available, powdered, low-protein glove use is monitored

Patients with a known or suspected latex allergy are identified

INDICATORS:

- Questions regarding latex allergy are routinely asked of patients
- Staff identify patients at risk for a latex allergy (e.g. history of multiple surgical procedures, latex cross-reacting foods, etc.)
- All latex or suspected latex allergy patients have appropriate identification of their latex allergy (e.g. armband, health care record, OR schedule, bed, room entrance)

Patients with a known or suspected latex allergy are effectively managed

INDICATORS:

- Patients with a known or suspected latex allergy are booked as the first case of the day in order to minimize exposure to airborne latex
- Latex-allergic patients are cared for in latex-safe areas/rooms
- Latex-free medical supplies are available and used (latex-free product cart available)
- Latex-precaution signage is appropriately posted
- Staff wash their hands prior to any patient contact
- Staff don a gown as appropriate prior to any patient contact
- Patients are monitored for signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction
- Emergency cart with latex-free medical products is available

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