

Salt River Fire Department EMS Policies and Procedures

Latex Allergy

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure for patients or SFRD members with a suspected latex sensitivity or allergy and to minimize the risk of latex associated complications in any individual with a latex sensitivity or allergy.

PATIENT PROCEDURES

1. Identify the possibility of a latex allergy through assessment and medical history.
2. Flag the patient's encounter form with the words "LATEX ALLERGY" clearly visible. Include latex on the allergy section of the encounter form.
3. Utilize latex-free kit for necessary patient care.
4. Place latex allergy band from latex-free kit on the patient.
5. Do NOT use equipment or items that contain latex (see list).
6. Cover the patient's upper arm with gauze or cling prior to placing BP cuff on patient. Wrap BP cuff tubing also to avoid contact with patient.
7. Do not use tourniquet when starting an IV. Use BP cuff as described.
8. Removing the top should access medication containers with latex tops. Do not puncture stopper to withdraw medication.
9. Do not inject through IV tubing injection ports. Use stopcock as needed. Place latex-free tape over injection ports.
10. Communicate presence of latex allergy to receiving healthcare providers upon transfer of care.

MEMBER PROCEDURES

1. Notify immediate supervisor and Infection Control Officer immediately if you suspect a latex sensitivity or allergy.
2. Complete an exposure and industrial report.
3. Reasonable environmental modifications should be made as soon as possible to reduce the risk of exposure.

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COMMON LATEX CONTAINING PRODUCTS

EMS Supplies

- Tubing on blood pressure cuffs
- Masks
- Stethoscopes
- Disposable gloves
- Oral and nasal airways
- Tops of multi-dose vials
- Tourniquets
- IV tubing
- Syringes
- ECG leads
- Endotracheal tubes

Personal Protective Equipment

- Gloves
- Masks
- Goggles
- Respirators
- Rubber aprons

Latex Free Kit

- 8 Pair XL Latex Free Gloves
- 8 Pair L Latex Free Gloves
- 5 "Blue" IV Tourniquets
- 1 Bottle Opener
- 5 Latex Allergy Armbands
- 1 Roll Latex Allergy Altering Stickers
- 5 PPE Sleeves

STANDARD

Anerson, L.C., (1998). **Latex Allergies: A Self-Directed Learning Module for Clinical Employees.** Mesa, Arizona:Lutheran Healthcare Network.

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NIOSH Alert: Preventing Allergic Reactions to Natural Rubber Latex in the Workplace, 1997. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Publication No. 97-135. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.