

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS  
EMT – Basic, EMT – Paramedic**

**SMO: Latex Sensitivity Precautions**

**Overview:** An increasing number of patients are presenting to EMS with Latex Sensitivity. Groups at increased risk for latex allergy include

- Spina Bifida patients
- People with numerous surgeries
- Patients with congenital urinary anomalies
- Healthcare Workers
- Rubber plant workers
- Anyone with a history of rubber sensitivity
- Anyone with a history of banana or avocado allergy

The spectrum of reaction can range from mild contact dermatitis to anaphylactic shock. This policy is to provide a safe, latex-free environment for patients who have latex sensitivity.

**Equipment:** Although there have been great strides to reduce the number of items being manufactured containing latex, many items continue to contain latex. A box of latex-free supplies is stored on each ambulance/first response vehicle in Region 1 and should be readily available. The paramedic/EMT should be knowledgeable about the contents of the box and ready to use the equipment when needed. Contents of the box are posted on the lid of the box. Items used from box should be replaced at ED with other supply exchange.

- 10 cc glass syringe
- 5 cc glass syringe
- vinyl exam gloves
- webril
- transpore tape
- 4-way stopcock
- J-loops
- tegaderm
- velcro tourniquet
- latex-free ecg electrodes
- universal set IV tubing
- tactylon surgical gloves
- surgical masks with ties
- surgical head cover
- latex-free ace bandage
- IV catheters

Patients may have their own latex-free kit and ask you to use their supplies.

7/04

Reviewed:

Revised:

EMS/ Region1 SMOs

**PROCEDURE**

When caring for a known latex allergy patient include

- Use of latex-free supplies.
- Remove rubber stoppers of medication vials with hemostats. Do not withdraw medication through rubber stopper.
- Remove all latex products from patient compartment of ambulance and store in cabinets.
- Use latex-free equipment or put a barrier between patient and the equipment, or keep all material containing latex away from patient by covering equipment with latex-free material or cloth.
- Wrap chemical ice pack in cloth prior to applying.
- Transport with windows open if weather or situation permits.
- Communicate latex sensitivity to the Emergency Department during the course of the radio report.

**Documentation of adherence to protocol:**

- patient/ family states that has history of latex sensitivity
- use of latex free products/ precautions used

**Medical Control Contact Criteria**

- If any question exists as to best treatment option for the patient.

**PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS**

- Patients with latex sensitivity should be taken very seriously. These patients can develop anaphylactic reactions very rapidly which can progress to anaphylactic shock within a matter of minutes.

**EXAMPLES OF PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAIN LATEX**

CATHETERS (FOLEY & STRAIGHT)

TAPE (ADHESIVE/PAPER)

ACE BANDAGES (BROWN)

ENEMA KITS

ELECTRODE PADS

BANDAIDS

BP CUFF

PENROSE DRAINS

STETHOSCOPE TUBING

SYRINGES

CATHETER LEG BAG STRAPS

MEDICATION VIALS

TOURNIQUETS

SUCTION CATHETERS

PREFILLED SYRINGES

NG TUBES

IV TUBING PORTS

LATEX GLOVES

STRAPS ON OXYGEN MASK

COLOSTOMY POUCH

BITE BLOCKS

BURRETTES