## OBJECTIVE

1. Patients with known latex allergies attending Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) facilities are identified prior to their visit and appropriate preparations made to minimise exposure.
2. Latex products in ED, DSU, Radiology and all other areas where surgical procedures are performed, are removed to assist in eliminating the risk of allergic reactions to latex proteins wherever possible when treating at risk patients.
3. Employees who develop latex sensitivity are identified and supported and that all options are explored to ensure they are latex safe.
4. Latex allergy education and training will be provided to personnel in the workplace so they can recognise symptoms of latex allergy and know the precautions required to protect themselves and patients.

## STANDARDS TO BE MET

1. Symptoms of latex allergy should be reported via the Incident Management and Medical Alert processes.
2. Population groups who are at higher risk of developing sensitivity to latex are identified as those who:
   - 2.1 Have a history of intraoperative anaphylaxis of unknown aetiology.
   - 2.2 Have neural tube defects including: Spina bifida Myelomeningocele / Meningocele / Lipomyelomeningocele
   - 2.3 Have had multiple surgical interventions especially as a neonate.
   - 2.4 Require multiple bladder catheterisations as a result of Spinal cord trauma or neurogenic bladder.
   - 2.5 Have a history of multiple allergies including food products, significantly to bananas, avocado, celery, fig, chestnut, papaya and passionfruit.
   - 2.6 Have repeated occupational exposure to latex (healthcare workers, rubber industry workers).
   - 2.7 Have a history of glove induced eczema, urticaria, work-related conjunctivitis, rhinitis or asthma.
   - 2.8 Have a history of reactions after touching balloons, rubber gloves or the powder from rubber gloves, dental dams, latex products and medical equipment.
   - 2.9 Are atopic patients (suffer from multiple allergies)
3. **Latex safety in operating suites for the positively identified latex sensitive patient**
   - 3.1 <u>Pre-Operative Preparation</u>
     a) The “High risk” or “latex sensitive” patient will be identified at / or prior to, the pre-operative assessment .The identification will differentiate between Type I and Type IV response.
     b) The “High risk” or “latex sensitive” patient will be clearly identified by the use of appropriate flagging of files and data.
   - 3.2 <u>Theatre Transfers</u>
     a) A filter particulate mask will be provided for the patient during transport to, from and within the theatre suite
     b) The patient will be transferred directly to the operating room from the ward, rather than using the reception area.
     c) The patient will be recovered in the operating room prior to transfer to the ward area to eliminate the risk of contact with latex particles and reduce the need for the preparation of several areas within the operating suite.

3.3 Theatre Staff Responsibilities

a) A senior member of staff will be designated to co-ordinate the preparation of the theatre and equipment prior to the patient's arrival.
b) The operating room staff who will care for the patient will be designated at the time of booking. The theatre will be regarded as closed until the time of the patient's transfer to the ward.
c) No staff who are, or have been, wearing powdered latex or latex gloves will be permitted to enter the operating room before or during the procedure and recovery.
d) Recovery room staff will be designated at time of theatre booking and will refrain from wearing latex or latex powdered gloves on the day of surgery until the patient is transferred to the ward.

3.4 Theatre Preparation

a) The "high risk" or "latex sensitive "patient will be scheduled as the first case of the day and where possible on the first day of the week in a theatre which has not been in use for at least five (5) hours.
b) In the case of urgent surgery the operating room will be cleared of latex containing equipment for at least five (5) hours prior to surgery to allow the air changes to clear the atmospheric latex particles.

3.5 Peri-Operative Equipment

a) All equipment to be used in the operating suite will be documented to be latex free by its inclusion in the latex free equipment file held at the theatre suite reception area.
b) Only the equipment verified by the manufacturer as being free of latex will be kept in the Latex Free box, other equipment shown to be free of latex may be listed in the file but not automatically kept in the box.
c) The designated staff member will ensure that all the equipment required for the procedure is available for anaesthesia, surgery and recovery and will liaise with other staff as appropriate.

**4. Latex Safety In Outpatients / Ambulatory Care Environment / District Nursing for patients identified as latex sensitive**

4.1 Appointments should be made for first appointment of the day and the room prepared at the end of the previous day's clinics.
4.2 Remove all latex containing equipment and damp dusted to remove latex particles (using synthetic gloves).
4.3 Display a "Latex Free" sign in the designated area.
4.4 Consult latex free product list.
4.5 In some instances equipment may be used with an appropriate barrier between the patient and the latex product.
4.6 At all times be prepared to treat a serous reaction.

**5. Latex safety in ward environment**

5.1 Provide a single room if possible.
5.2 Remove all latex containing equipment and damp dust room to remove latex particles (using synthetic gloves).
5.3 Place "LATEX FREE AREA" sign at entrances to the room.
5.4 The use of latex free gloves should only be used in the entire ward for the duration of the patient's admission (including the cleaners).
5.5 All procedures should be planned and the latex free equipment list consulted.

**6. Latex safety in medication administration**

6.1 Use synthetic gloves and latex free syringes (BD syringes are latex free).
6.2 Use latex free tourniquet or an appropriate barrier on the arm.
6.3 No drugs to be drawn up through rubber bungs e.g. antibiotics.
6.4 Ensure IV dressings are latex free.
6.5 Use Interlink IV system and accessories (latex free).

## ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.3.10 Latex Safety Management for Patients and Employees
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 2.1.4 Incident Management
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.1.5 Alerts
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.1.5 protocol 1 Alerts – Medical (Allergic Responses / Adverse Reactions and High Risk Issues)
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Reportable Event Input form

## Appendix 1: Latex Free Products List

NB: This is not an exhaustive list and any lists held in the wards are to be updated regularly and should be the first point of reference.

| Equipment / Product | Latex Free Product |
|---|---|
| Gloves | • Baxter Duraprene<br>• Fabricell Vinyl |
| Syringes | • Terumo<br>• REM Systems<br>• Codan (latex-free)<br>• Glass Syringes<br>• BD Syringes |
| ECG dots | • 3M<br>• Clear Trace |
| Blood Giving Sets | • REM Systems<br>• Inter Link Systems<br>• High Flow (Eccles) |
| Air Vent Needles | • REM Systems |
| CVP Manometers | • REM Systems |
| Central Lines | • Arrow Kits (remove bungs & syringes and replace with BD syringes and Interlink luer injection sites) |
| Pulmonary artery catheter Swann / Ganz | • No replacement – do not use |
| Arterial Lines | • Arrow;<br>• Insyte Cannula |
| Epidural Tubing<br>PCA | • REM PCAM<br>• Braun |
| Intravenous Equipment | • Baxter Interlink equipment and administration sets |
| Arrow Percutaneous sheath introducer sets (for inserting pacing wires) | • No replacement – DO NOT USE |
| Arterial / CVL Pressure Monitoring Kits | • BD Kits |
| Urinary Catheters | • Kendall 100% silicone range |
| BiPAP Masks | • Respironics Performatrak range |