

PAEDIATRIC NURSING PRACTICE MANUAL
SECTION 3

GENERAL CARE OF THE SICK CHILD

3.11 ALLERGIES AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

3.11.2 NURSING A PATIENT WITH LATEX SENSITIVITY

Aims

1. Avoid exposure of a patient to latex proteins during a hospital stay.
2. The patient will have an identifying red alert band and the notes are clearly labelled alerting personnel to the risk of latex sensitivity.

Key Points

1. Patient will be nursed in a latex free environment. Refer to [CAHS PMH.P.Clin.1.7 Latex Minimisation](#).
2. Patients will be identified as per CAHS Hospital [Policy 160 Patient Identification](#).
3. Known latex sensitive patients will wear an identifying red alert band whilst in hospital
4. Notes will be clearly labelled alerting personnel to the risk of latex sensitivity.
5. Allergy alert and/or latex precaution signs will be displayed on the door or the bed head.
6. Rubber balloons are not allowed.

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
<p>Prior to admission to the ward: Damp dust room or cubicle/bed area by person wearing non-latex gloves. Remove all latex containing equipment from the room/bed area. Inform cleaning personnel of need to wear non-latex gloves for all duties in the patient's area.</p>	Refer to S.C.I catalogue for information.
<p>On admission: Complete allergy alert form. Apply red alert ID band to wrist or ankle. Display an allergy alert at bed head. Place latex precaution notice on door of room/bed head.</p>	Refer to PNPM 3.11.1 Reporting of Allergies and Adverse Reactions.
<p>Plan procedures with latex precautions in mind. Use Latex free dressings and skin tapes. Cover oximeter probes with non-latex glove material or a clear film dressing eg. Tegaderm.</p>	Check whether equipment contains latex and requires covering

All protocols should be read in conjunction with the disclaimer in the preface of this manual

Nursing a Patient with Latex Sensitivity

PROCEDURE	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Wash hands prior to wearing the non-latex gloves if previously having worn latex gloves.	
When transferring or moving to another department; Prior to transfer the admitting ward must ensure that theatre staff are informed of the patient's latex sensitivity status.	For example the perioperative environment poses a great risk to patients with sensitivity to latex. A latex precaution environment is prepared as per Theatre Operations manual for the care of the latex sensitive patient.

Bibliography:

Working party of the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Convened Westmead Hospital. 1998. Guidelines for Hospital Management of Latex Allergic Patients.

American Journal Health. System Pharmacists 2000 Jan 1:57.