

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

LATEX PRECAUTIONS

Effective Date:	02/96	Policy No:	PC09
Cross Referenced:		Origin:	Nursing Department
Reviewed Date:	05/98, 05/02, 04/05, 12/08, 03/10	Authority:	CNO
Revised Date:	03/10	Page:	1 of 2

SCOPE

All departments at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (HRMC).

PURPOSE

1. To identify latex sensitive/allergic patients.
2. To create a latex-safe environment for all patients and employees.
3. Decrease environmental latex exposure and utilize latex-free equipment, as available, and to employ appropriate engineering controls for latex allergic and/or sensitive individuals.

SUPPORTIVE DATA

1. Exposure to latex products may cause a hypersensitivity response either locally, at the site of contact, or systemically. Systemic response may include anxiety, erythema, urticaria bronchospasm, chest pain, hypertension, edema shock and cardiac arrest.
2. All patients with a latex allergy will be cared for using latex precautions. Patients who are considered high risk for latex allergy will be cared for using latex precautions also. These include:
 - a. Spina Bifida.
 - b. Those with congenital urological anomalies.
 - c. Anyone with allergies to bananas, avocados, tropical fruits and/or chestnuts.
3. All products used for patient care shall be checked for latex content. It may be necessary to contact manufacturers to determine latex content of some items.
4. Good hand washing technique is absolutely essential to remove any residual latex proteins after removing gloves. You may have to care for a latex sensitive individual after you remove your gloves.
5. Latex allergy policies and procedures are available for all hospital personnel. Refer to the Employee Health Nurse for further details.

POLICY

Identification of Patient

1. Ask all patients about latex allergy/sensitivity to bananas, avocados, tropical fruit and/or chestnuts during the admission/registration interview prior to performance of any hospital services.

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

LATEX PRECAUTIONS

Effective Date:	02/96	Policy No:	PC09
Cross Referenced:		Origin:	Nursing Department
Reviewed Date:	05/98, 05/02, 04/05, 12/08, 03/10	Authority:	CNO
Revised Date:	03/10	Page:	2 of 2

2. Enter latex allergy information into the medical record.
3. Assign a private room when possible. If not possible, latex free equipment **must** be used in caring for both patients.
4. Obtain **GREEN LATEX ALLERGY STOP SIGN** from box and place on patient's door. Keep door closed at all times.
5. Obtain **GREEN "Latex Allergy"** wristband and place on patient.
6. Note "**Latex Allergy**" on front of patient's chart.
7. If latex equipment may come in contact with the patient, cover it with appropriate non-latex covering (i.e. Kerlix, tape, linens).
8. Latex sensitive patient shall be instructed to wear a surgical mask for transport through any area with potential for airborne latex.
9. Prior to drawing up medication from a vial with a rubber stopper **contact pharmacy** to see if vial contains latex. If so, contact pharmacy for procedure to draw up medication.

OBSERVATIONS

Observe patient for any signs or symptoms of **latex allergy** reaction such as:

Chest Pain	Itching
Difficulty Breathing	Swelling
Dizziness	Wheals
Hives	Wheezing

If signs and symptoms are present, notify MD immediately.