

Section: Division of Nursing

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PROTOCOL

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Approval: _____

Issue Date: July 7, 1998

Review Date: May 6, 2005

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

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OR

(Scope)

TITLE: CARE OF THE LATEX SENSITIVE/ALLERGIC PATIENT IN OR

PURPOSE: To outline the procedure that will create a latex-safe environment for the latex sensitive/allergic patient in the OR.

- 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, erythremia, urticaria, bronchospasm, chest pain, hypertension, edema, shock and cardiac arrest.
 2. All products used for patient care shall be checked for latex content.
 3. Refer to Generic Latex Allergy Protocol.

INDICATIONS: Patients with a known latex allergy.

EQUIPMENT LIST: Latex Allergy Box

CONTENT:

PROCEDURE STEPS:

KEY POINTS:

A. PRE-OPERATIVELY

1. Remove all non-sterile latex containing gloves from the room.
2. Place latex allergy sign on room door.
3. Verify latex allergy with the patient.
4. Patient is to be received in the OR with the Central Supply latex allergy box. The box will stay outside of the room during the procedure.

B. INTRA-OPERATIVELY

1. Only use supplies that have been identified as being latex-free.
2. Avoid dispensing medications that are in vials containing latex stoppers. Instead, use medications that are in glass ampules. If a medication is not available in a glass ampule, draw the medication directly from an opened multidose vial after removing the stopper. Administer medication as soon as possible.

See Latex Safe Manual on latex cart.

C. POST-OPERATIVELY

1. Transport patient to PACU with the Central Supply latex allergy box.
2. Report patient's latex allergy to the PACU staff.

DOCUMENTATION: Record implementation of latex allergy protocol on the chart form for intraoperative nursing documentation.