

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSPITALS  
NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

**Guidelines for the care of patients with latex sensitivity in reception /  
recovery at Freeman Hospital General Theatres**

**Effective date : September 2006**

**Review date :September 2009**

**Identification/Preparation**

Patients with latex allergy should be identified in preadmission clinic or on admission to the ward. All departments involved in the care of the patient should be informed in advance. Transfusion should be notified as all blood product bags contain latex.

If a latex sensitive patient arrives in reception without any prior warning, the anaesthetist and nurse in charge of theatre should be informed.

**Provision of a latex free environment**

The patient should be first on the list or sufficient time allowed for a complete air change within theatre.

The number of staff having direct contact with the patient should be kept to a minimum.

All anaesthetic equipment that contains latex has been identified and a list is kept in theatre in the sisters office. Each theatre has identified all latex containing equipment and a list is kept in each theatre. In addition each theatre has a named nurse responsible for updating the latex containing equipment list.

**Monitoring**

All the new monitors are latex free (The Marquette monitoring cables contain latex so should not be used)

**Airway/Breathing**

All rebreather bags are latex free and should be used along with an H.M.E. filter.

All airway equipment is latex free.

**I.V. therapy**

Injection ports on fluids should not be used.

I.V. giving sets and injection sets are latex free.

All venflons and syringes in theatre are latex free.

P.C.A. valves are latex free.

Tourniquets contain latex and should only be used over padding.

**All blood product bags contain latex. Transfusion should be warned in advance of all patients with latex allergy.**

### **Drugs**

Glass ampoules should be used whenever possible. Rubber bungs should be removed unless known to be latex free

### **Dressings and Tapes**

Opsite dressings are latex free

Sleek and elastoplast contain latex

**For further advice on latex allergy contact the Immunology Department (20740, Mon – Fri 8.30 –5pm ; out of hours contact immunologist on call via switchboard)**

### References:

Latex Allergy Policy Newcastle upon Tyne hospitals NHS trust 2006  
M.J.Dakin and S.M.Yentis. Latex allergy: A strategy for management Anaesthesia 1998, 53 774-781

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