

# Topic: Latex Allergy

date updated: 8/13/03

## Description:

- *Latex, is a processed plant product, also called rubber. Allergic reactions to rubber can occur when products containing rubber come in contact with a person's skin or body parts. Serious reactions can also occur when latex enters the bloodstream or when it is inhaled. Food that has been handled by latex gloves may also cause a reaction, and people who have allergic reactions to latex may also be allergic to certain foods, including bananas, chestnuts, avocados and kiwi fruit.*
- *The type of allergic reaction experienced can range from watery and itchy eyes and/or sneezing and coughing, to hives (a blotchy, raised, itchy, rash), to swelling of the throat and even to life-threatening changes in blood pressure and circulation (anaphylactic shock).*
- *The following commonly encountered items may contain latex and pose a risk to the latex sensitive individual:*  
*Healthcare products which may contain latex:*
  - *gloves, catheters, tourniquets, elastic bandages, ace wraps, I.V. tubing injection ports, medication vials, adhesive tape, band-aids.**Home/community items which may contain latex:*
  - *balloons, pacifiers, dental dams, rubber bands, elastic in clothing (underwear), shoes, beach toys, Koosh balls, baby bottle nipples, condoms, diaphragms, diapers, art supplies, carpet backing, erasers, rubber mats, balls and racquet handles.*

## Questions at intake:

1. What symptoms of concern does your child exhibit?	Possibilities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Skin rashes</li> <li>▪ Runny nose</li> <li>▪ Sore throats</li> <li>▪ Sneezing</li> <li>▪ Wheezing</li> <li>▪ Watery eyes</li> <li>▪ Closing of windpipe</li> <li>▪ anaphylactic shock</li> </ul>		
2. What specialized equipment or medication does your child use for his/her condition?	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Training</b>	
		<b>Direct</b>	<b>Indirect</b>
	See "keeping latex free environment" below		X
	<b>Medications</b>		
	Creams or jellies for skin irritations; topical creams designed to relieve itching short term		X
	Epinepherin (Epi-Pen); A device used to control the onset of allergic reaction by direct administration of medicine.	X	

3. Additional Questions at Intake:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>What types of calming strategies do you use when an allergic reaction is occurring?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Can the child administer his/her own medication?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Do all latex product cause allergic reactions – or just some?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>What is the most severe case of reaction? When was the last occurrence? How did the child react?</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Is the child allowed to participate on field trips where latex environment is unsure?</i></li> </ul>
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### For administration / Provider

1. Provider/ Staff Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Staff must receive information on latex allergies and assist in keeping the environment latex free.</i></li> <li>• <i>Any person who has been trained to administer medication or topical cream to child may do so in accordance with the Emergency Plan created</i></li> </ul>
2. Keeping a latex free environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Remove all latex products from environment</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Replace items with Latex Safe alternatives</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Have latex free gloves on hand for food distribution and emergency medical situations</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Have a LATEX FREE environment sign or sticker clearly displayed at entrance to child care facility or classroom.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Have child wear medical bracelet ID to alert of latex allergy</i></li> </ul>
3. Recommended Paperwork:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Letters to parents, transportation, regarding latex free environment</i></li> <li>• <b><i>ER Plan for allergic reaction</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Updated list of Latex products and their alternatives</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Medication Administration Sheet</i></b></li> </ul>

### **Additional Resources:**

Latex Allergy Information Service (LAIS)  
 176 Roosevelt Avenue  
 Torrington, Connecticut, USA 06790  
 (860) 482-6869  
 Fax: (860) 482-7640  
 e-mail: [76500.1452@compuServe](mailto:76500.1452@compuServe) or  
[debia@ix.netcom.com](mailto:debia@ix.netcom.com)

National Latex Allergy Network (ELASTIC.Inc.)  
<http://www.latex-allergy.org/>

Spina Bifida Association of America  
<http://www.sbaa.org/docs/LATEX2001.pdf> – list of latex containing products / latex safe alternatives

### **Attachments:**

- Latex Free ER Care Plan Sample

