

**LATEX & THE MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVITY/ ALLERY POLICY**

<b>POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER</b>	CLP81
<b>VERSION NUMBER</b>	2
<b>KEY CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS VERSION</b>	3 year review – no significant changes
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Head of Risk Management
<b>CONSULTATION GROUPS</b>	
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<b>NEXT REVIEW DATE</b>	February 2024
<b>APPROVAL BY CLINICAL GOVERNANCE &amp; QUALITY SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	December 2020
<b>RATIFICATION BY QUALITY COMMITTEE</b>	February 2021
<b>COPYRIGHT</b>	2018-2021
<b>POLICY SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This policy is required to ensure that when staff deliver care they consider the risk of allergy to Natural Rubber Latex (NRL) in all areas of activities in particular those involved in patient care</p> <p>The principles contained within this policy and the associated documents will ensure that all staff involved in delivering patient care have the resources and support systems for the safe management of risk to staff, patients and others from developing a natural rubber latex allergy.</p>	
<b>The Trust monitors the implementation of and compliance with this policy in the following ways:</b>	
<p>The Monitoring and compliance of this policy will be undertaken by the risk team and the effectiveness of this policy will be assessed by trend analysis of local incident reporting and follow-up action plans.</p>	

<b>Services</b>	<b>Applicable</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Trustwide	✓	
Essex MH&LD		
CHS		

**The Director responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy is  
Chief Executive Officer**

**ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

**LATEX & THE MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVITY/ ALLERGY POLICY**

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SAMPLE ONLY

**ESSEX PARTNERSHIP UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST****LATEX & THE MANAGEMENT OF SENSITIVITY/ ALLERGY POLICY****Assurance Statement**

This policy is required to ensure that when staff deliver care they consider the risk of allergy to Natural Rubber Latex (NRL) in all areas of activities in particular those involved in patient care

The principles contained within this policy and the associated documents will ensure that all staff involved in delivering patient care have the resources and support systems for the safe management of risk to staff, patients and others from developing a natural rubber latex allergy.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) is committed to the provision of high quality services in environments that are safe for patients, staff and visitors.
- 1.2 The policy and accompanying procedure sets out the commitments, organisation and arrangements of EPUT for minimising the risk of allergy to Natural Rubber Latex (NRL) in all areas of its activities and in particular those involved in patient care. The purpose of this policy is to minimise NRL exposure to patients and staff in EPUT, manage patients with NRL during treatment procedures in EPUT and manage the work environment of those staff with established allergy to NRL.
- 1.3 Gloves made from NRL are likely to be the main cause of sensitisation in healthcare workers as well as the primary cause of reaction in those who are allergic. EPUT therefore has taken the decision to prohibit the use of latex gloves.
- 1.4 EPUT is committed to providing the resources and support systems for the safe management of risk to staff, patients and others from developing natural rubber latex allergy.
- 1.5 The NHS Commissioning Board Special Health Authority; patient safety and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) require Trusts to protect the health and safety of their staff and patients with respect to exposure to NRL.

## 2.0 SCOPE

The policy relates to the expected practices of all levels of employees employed at EPUT.

Further background is set out in Appendix 1 of the procedure and must be read in conjunction with this policy.

## 3.0 LEGAL AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 impose a statutory obligation to carry out risk assessments for hazardous substances, implement suitable control measures and carry out any necessary health surveillance.

The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) require cases of occupational dermatitis or asthma caused by exposure to any known irritant or sensitiser to be reported to the Health and Safety Executive.

## 4.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 **The Trust Board of Directors** has overall responsibility for managing all aspects of health and safety.

4.2 **Trust Directors and Senior Managers** will ensure that:

- The use of NRL gloves in EPUT is prohibited and only vinyl or nitrile gloves are to be used
- A NRL risk assessment is undertaken in all clinical areas of responsibility. Individual risk assessments will be necessary where patients or staff are identified as having an allergy to NRL.
- Identify and implement any action / control required following the NRL risk assessment.
- All staff suspected of having sensitivity to NRL are referred to the Occupational Health Service for testing.
- Ensure anaphylaxis can be treated in areas where procedures are to be carried out on individuals with acute NRL sensitivity.

4.3 **All Employees** have a general duty to take reasonable care of their own safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions. All Employees must abide by the Procedure that accompanies this policy.

## 5.0 TRAINING

EPUT is committed to ensuring that all staff receives information, instruction, training and supervision appropriate to their roles. This will be provided as part of the Trust Infection Control Programme and Anaphylaxis training.

## 6.0 AUDIT/MONITOR AND REVIEW

The effectiveness of this policy will be assessed by trend analysis of local incident Reporting and follow-up action. Accident and incident reports will be analysed by the Risk Manager and the Health and Safety Adviser on a monthly basis, and quarterly Reports presented to the Quality Committee, including lessons learned evaluation.

## 7.0 EXCLUSIONS

This policy does not apply to the provision of adult and young person's safer sex resources (including but not limited to condoms, oral shields and gloves) supplied to members of the public for HIV, STI (including Hepatitis A, B & C) and pregnancy prevention. Clients are in general fully aware of sensitisation risks and empowered to request non-latex safer sex resources if they are required.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

1. HSE: INDG 320: Latex and You
2. Health Service Indicator (1999) Latex Medical gloves and Powdered Latex Medical Gloves HSC 1999/186
3. Health and Safety Executive. Latex Allergies. Available at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/employ/latex.htm>
4. National Patient Safety Agency. Patient Safety Information 08. Protecting People with Allergy Associated with Latex. May 2005. Available at: <http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59791>

## 9.0 REFERENCES TO OTHER TRUST POLICIES

- Adverse Incident (including Serious Incident) reporting Policy, CP3
- Drug Allergies & Medical Emergencies Clinical Guideline, CG27
- General Workplace Risk Assessment Policy, RM11
- Occupational Health Procedure, HRP26C
- Infection Control Policy ICP1
- Medical Devices Policy CLP17

END