

GENERAL

LATEX ALLERGY/SENSITIVITY

The following guidelines are to be used for providing emergency medical care to a patient with a known sensitivity or allergy to latex products.

Latex free kits are available for caring for latex sensitive/allergic patients. They should include:

BLS	ALS
Non-latex tape	BLS Items, plus additional:
Latex free BP cuffs	▪ Vinyl tourniquets
One latex free nasal cannula	Latex-free angiocath (2 each 14,16,18,20 and 22 gauge)
One pediatric and one adult modified non-rebreather (Remove the two latex valves. This will reduce mask's efficiency)	Latex-free IV tubing or IV tubing with latex ports covered by latex-free tape
Three pair non-latex gloves	One latex-free hand held nebulizer
Two sets non-latex electrodes for AED	

1. Identify patients with suspected or known latex allergy by acknowledging patients' self-declaration and asking patient about past latex allergy history.

TYPE 1 (Systemic): Immediate reaction with symptoms including rash, wheezing, shortness of breath, swelling of throat, tongue, mouth, lips, bronchospasm, increased heart rate, respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest.

TYPE 4 (Delayed): Reactions 6-48 hours after exposure include contact dermatitis such as local itching, swelling, redness, blisters and dry patches.

2. Observe standard BSI procedures, to include non-latex gloves for all crewmembers involved in patient care. If already wearing latex gloves, remove gloves **outside of ambulance or room patient is in** and wash hands before touching patient.
3. Monitor patient and initiate appropriate interventions with latex free medical supplies. Provide emergency care as needed.

The Idaho EMS Bureau has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. This guideline is for reference and may be modified at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director. It is recommended that care be based on the patient's clinical presentation and on authorized policies and guidelines.

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4. Modify ambulance environment by removing all latex items (Gloves, tourniquets, tubing, etc.) and placing them in a closed compartment, but critical emergency care should not be delayed to modify environment:
 - a. Cover mattress of cot entirely with sheet so no areas of mattress are exposed.
 - b. Do not administer any medications through latex ports on IV tubing.
 - c. Wrap all tubing containing latex in gauze or cling wrap so it does not come in contact with patient's skin.
 - d. If the patient has a latex free treatment kit, use as needed.

5. Notify On-Line Medical Control of incoming transport of patient with latex allergy.

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