



**REGION 11  
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM  
POLICY**

Title: Use of Latex-Free Supplies
Section: Patient Care
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
Effective: December 6, 2023

## **USE OF LATEX-FREE SUPPLIES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

To define use of latex-free supplies during EMS patient care.

### **II. DEFINITIONS:**

- A. Latex: Refers to natural rubber latex, the product manufactured from a milky fluid derived from the rubber tree, *Hevea brasiliensis*.
- B. Latex Allergy: A reaction to certain proteins in latex rubber.

### **III. POLICY:**

- A. Many medical products or devices such as catheters, gloves, adhesive tape, and syringes are made of latex and can trigger an allergic reaction in sensitive individuals.
- B. When possible, EMS should use latex free products including gloves.
- C. Ask patients about latex allergy or check medical alert bracelets.
- D. Latex allergy symptoms range from skin irritation to life-threatening anaphylaxis.
- E. Treat latex allergy as per the Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reaction Protocol.

Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Latex Allergy A Prevention Guide, <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/98-113/>