

Children's Emergency Department

Latex Allergy: Parent/Carer Discharge Information



Latex is a natural rubber material which consists of water, rubber polymer, sugar resins and proteins which cause the allergy. It is found in rubber gloves, party balloons, medical products and household products. Latex sensitivity is on the increase and can affect anyone. Some people will be more vulnerable, such as those with a history of eczema, asthma, hay fever, multiple surgical procedures and food allergies - particularly bananas, kiwi fruit, avocados or potatoes.

What are the symptoms?

- Itching and swelling at the site of contact
- Itchy or runny nose and/or itchy watery eyes
- Wheezing
- In very rare cases – breathing difficulty and collapse

What should I do to prevent an allergic reaction?

- Avoid your child having unnecessary contact with latex;
- Inform any health care practitioner involved with looking after your child;
- Also inform school, employers (if an adolescent), hairdressers as well as all friends and relatives;
- Insist your child is **NOT** examined by anyone wearing latex gloves;
- Please inform all hospital staff of your child's latex allergy;
- Consider buying your child a Medicalert bracelet or necklace (www.medicalert.co.uk).



Patient Information

What should I do if my child has a mild allergic reaction?

- Give Chlorphenamine Maleate (Piriton) immediately, remove the allergen & observe them;
- Seek medical advice.

What should I do if my child has breathing difficulties and/or collapses?

- Call 999 immediately

For more information contact:

- Your GP or Health Visitor
- Latex Allergy Support Group (www.lasg.co.uk)
- Allergy UK (www.allergyuk.org)

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6934 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History

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