Identifying Latex Allergy TYPE I

For Patients and Staff
Latex allergy is an allergy to products made from natural rubber latex.

**TYPE I Reaction** Immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibody mediated reaction

- Immediate – reaction occurs minutes after exposure
- Late-phase – reactions may re-occur 2-4 hours after initial exposure

People most at risk of having or developing a latex allergy are those who have other allergies

Latex and some foods contain similar short sequences of amino acids and are recognized by antibodies and thus may react the same way

Certain people are at greater risk of developing a latex allergy

Latex allergy often begins with a rash on the hands when using natural rubber latex gloves but symptoms may then develop

Symptoms occur immediately on contact

**Suffer from:**
- Eczema
- Asthma
- Hayfever (Rhinitis)
- Dermatitis

**Food allergy to:**
- Avocado*
- Chestnut*
- Apple
- Papaya
- Grape
- Celery
- Banana*
- Kiwi*
- Tomato
- Potato
- Melons

* higher probability

**Are you:**
- A healthcare worker
- A spina bifida sufferer
- A person with urinary tract abnormalities present at birth (congenital)
- A person who has undergone multiple surgeries or medical procedures
- Rubber industry worker

**Food allergy to:**
- Avocado*
- Chestnut*
- Apple
- Papaya
- Grape
- Celery
- Banana*
- Kiwi*
- Tomato
- Potato
- Melons

* higher probability

**Have signs and symptoms of:**
- Tingling, swelling, wheezing, or rashes associated with latex products:
  - Rubber gloves, hot water bottles, elastic bands, condoms or a visit to the dentist


Hypersensitivity http://www.worldallergy.org/professional/allergic_diseases_center/latexallergy/latexsynopsis.php

Ansell Cares Latex Allergy Management • Ansell Cares Chemical Allergy Masquerade • Latex Policy – Community Health Sheffield NHS Trust
Identifying Chemical Allergy TYPE IV

For Patients and Staff
Chemical allergy is an allergy to specific chemical residues.

**TYPE IV Reaction Allergic Contact Dermatitis (ACD)**
Non IgE – T cell mediated response

Delayed type hypersensitivity as the reaction does not occur immediately:

Risk factor for the development of Latex Protein Allergy
Symptoms 6-48 hours after initial contact
Symptoms can last for up to 4 days

**Do you suffer from:**
- Blisters
- Erythema
- Swelling
- Cracking
- Itching
- Weeping
- Dryness of the skin at the site

**Are you using products that contain:**
- Polyoxypolyeneglycol
- Thiurams
- Carbamates
- Mercaptobenzothiazole (MBT)
- Lanolin
- Diphenylguanidine (DPG)
- Coloring pigmentation, preservatives

Identifying Irritant Contact Dermatitis

For Staff
This is a condition affecting the skin, and is not an allergy.

**Irritant Contact Dermatitis (ICD)**
Non-immune response

This type of contact dermatitis is more frequently encountered than allergic contact dermatitis:

Risk factor for the development of Latex Protein Allergy
Symptoms within minutes to hours after initial contact
Symptoms limited to site of exposure

**Do you suffer from:**
- Redness
- Chapping
- Chaffing
- Dryness
- Scaling
- Cracking

**Are you exposed to:**
- Detergents
- Frequently washing hands
- Inadequately dried hands
- Climate extremes
- Pre-existing dermatitis
- Aggressive scrubbing techniques
- Glove powder