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Obstetric Theatre Guideline for Women with Latex Allergy (Singleton Hospital site)

Speciality: Maternity
Approval body: Intrapartum Forum
Approval date: December 2025
Date of Review: December 2028



Singleton Obstetric Theatre Guideline for Patients with Latex Allergy V1.2

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Health Board Natural Rubber Latex Allergy policy available at

http://135.3.64.51/documents/policies/Latex_Policy_Sept06_432.pdf

Many thanks to Dr D. Nicolson for providing the latex policy for Princess of Wales Hospital, on which these guidelines are based

A. Communication

- i. The patients' drug chart, medical and nursing notes should be clearly marked as 'Latex Allergy'.
- ii. All staff, including midwives and doctors on labour ward should be informed when a patient with a latex allergy arrives on the unit.
- iii. 24 hours' notice should be given for elective cases. When booking the case, the ward diary should indicate that the patient has a latex allergy.

B. Labour Ward

- i. On admission to the antenatal ward, a labour room should be prepared in readiness for the patient.
 - All latex items to be taken out of the labour room and only latex free gloves should be worn.
 - All surfaces wiped clean, including the bed frame.
 - New clean linen should be used for the bed.

C. Theatres

- i. If the patient is for an elective caesarean, they should be first on the list.
- ii. In the event of an unplanned admission, the theatre should be prepared once the patient arrives onto either ward 19 or the central delivery suite.
- iii. Preparation of theatre to include:
 - Removal of all latex items from theatre.
 - Removal of all latex items from scrub room.
 - Removal of all latex items from anaesthetic room.
 - All theatre surfaces to be re-cleaned with non latex gloves, including table controls, pumps, computer, anaesthetic machine surfaces and monitors.
 - 'NO ENTRY LATEX ALLERGY' notices to be displayed on theatre and anaesthetic room doors.

- The operating table to be covered with clean linen
 - Only designated staff to be allowed in theatres. All personnel should make sure that their clothing is latex free and all staff should wash their hands before patient contact.
- iv. The surgical team should be made aware of the guidelines and the implications for the care of the patient during surgery.

D. Anaesthetics

- i. Only latex free gloves to be used at all times.
- ii. Breathing circuits and reservoir bags on the anaesthetic machine to be changed.
- iii. Check and confirm that all equipment and drugs to be used are latex free.

E. Recovery

- i. A latex free delivery room should be prepared for postoperative care until admitted to the postnatal ward.
- ii. In the event of a delay in preparation of a latex free delivery room, the patient should be recovered in theatre until a room is ready.

F. Equipment

- i. Most medical equipment is now latex free.
- ii. As manufacturers and suppliers of equipment changes frequently, it is difficult to compile a list of all latex free products.
- iii. It is the responsibility of the midwife, scrub team, obstetrician and anaesthetist to make sure that all equipment and disposables used are latex free before using them.
- iv. The following items may contain latex:
 - Gloves
 - Gauntlets for manual removal of placenta
 - Elasticated theatre caps (**Universal** caps are latex free)
 - Urinary catheters
 - Slick tape

G. Drugs

- i. Drugs in glass vials with rubber bungs may contain latex
- ii. Synthetic rubber, usually butyl or chlorobutyl rubber, does not contain latex (the drug information leaflet may state what the bung is made of)
- iii. If the rubber bung contains or is suspected to contain latex, and it is not possible to use an alternative drug, remove the bung and use a filter needle to draw up the drug. Do not pass the needle through the rubber bung.

The information provided is accurate at the time of writing, however, manufacturers of equipment and drugs may change.

Maternity Services

Checklist for Clinical Guidelines being Submitted for Approval

Title of Guideline:	Obstetric Theatre Guideline for women with Latex Allergy (Singleton site)
Name(s) of Author:	Intrapartum Forum
Chair of Group or Committee approving submission:	Intrapartum Forum
Brief outline giving reasons for document being submitted for ratification	Update existing policy
Details of persons included in consultation process:	Intrapartum forum
Name of Pharmacist (mandatory if drugs involved):	N/A
Issue / Version No:	3
Please list any policies/guidelines this document will supercede:	Obstetric Theatre Guideline for women with Latex Allergy – V2 (April 2022)
Date approved by Group:	18 th December 2025
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Please indicate key words you wish to be linked to document	latex
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