

Parish Dental Practice Policy: Latex Management

Policy Statement:

Parish Dental Practice acknowledges the risks associated with latex products and is committed to managing and reducing these risks. This policy outlines the procedures for minimizing latex exposure and providing latex-safe environments for staff and patients who are sensitive or allergic to latex.

Objective:

To minimize the risk of latex allergy reactions by adopting latex-safe practices and providing alternative materials where necessary.

Scope:

This policy applies to all employees, contractors, and patients of Parish Dental Practice, covering all areas where latex products may be used.

Detailed Procedures:

1. Risk Identification and Assessment:

- Identify areas and processes within the practice where latex products are used.
- Assess the risk of exposure and potential for allergic reactions.

2. Latex-Free Alternatives:

- Whenever possible, use latex-free alternatives for gloves, dental dams, and other supplies.
- Maintain a supply of non-latex products for use with patients and staff who are allergic or sensitive to latex.

3. Staff and Patient Screening:

- Implement a procedure to screen both staff and patients for latex allergies.
- Document any known latex allergies in staff and patient records.

4. Training and Awareness:

- Provide training for all staff on the risks associated with latex, how to recognize allergic reactions, and the use of latex-free alternatives.
- Educate staff on procedures for handling a latex allergy reaction.

5. Communication:

- Clearly communicate to patients that latex-free options are available.





- Display notices in waiting and treatment areas regarding the availability of latex-free alternatives.

6. **Emergency Procedures:**

- Develop and communicate procedures for managing latex allergy reactions, including immediate response actions and emergency medical treatment.

7. **Purchasing and Inventory Management:**

- Ensure purchasing policies prioritize latex-free products where viable.
- Regularly review and manage inventory to ensure availability of non-latex alternatives.

8. **Environmental Controls:**

- Implement measures to reduce latex in the environment, such as using powder-free gloves and maintaining clean air filters.

9. **Incident Reporting and Monitoring:**

- Establish a system for reporting and documenting incidents related to latex allergies.
- Regularly review these incidents to improve safety measures.

10. **Policy Review and Updates:**

- Continually review and update the latex management policy to reflect current best practices and new medical information.

Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:

- **Practice Manager:** Ensures overall compliance with the latex policy, manages training and awareness programs, and oversees purchasing practices.
- **Clinical Staff:** Responsible for adhering to latex-safe practices, using latex-free alternatives, and reporting any latex-related incidents.
- **All Staff Members:** Required to be aware of latex allergies, recognize symptoms, and respond appropriately to incidents.

This policy ensures Parish Dental Practice is proactive in managing and reducing the risks associated with latex, providing a safe environment for both staff and patients. Regular training, vigilant purchasing practices, and effective communication are key to the successful implementation of this policy.

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Updated Yearly

