ST. CLOUD VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM MEMORANDUM CD11-20 January 2020

LATEX SAFETY

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

CD11-20 Latex Safety, has been reviewed and has the following minor changes.

1. Changed Support Services to Logistics.
2. Updated signature blocks.

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LATEX SAFETY

**1.** **PURPOSE:** To establish a policy relating to latex management for patient, staff, and volunteers within the St. Cloud Veterans Affairs Health Care System (STCVAHCS). It is in compliance with VHA Directive 7701 and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards.

**2.** **POLICY:** It is the policy of this Health Care System to assess at-risk patients and employees for latex sensitivity and provide low latex health care and working conditions for patients and employees. The STCVAHCS will provide/procure/utilize latex free products/equipment where available and reasonable to do so. The Health Care System will make education available to staff and patients concerning latex.

**3.** **RESPONSIBILITY:**

a. Health Care System Director oversees the program that minimizes exposure to latex.

b. Chief of Staff/Designee ensures that diagnostic testing for patients, volunteers, and staff with a history of latex sensitivity/allergy is performed as appropriate.

c. Employee will:

(1) Report to Occupational Health any known or suspected latex sensitivity.

(2) Follow prescribed diagnostic and treatment plans.

d. Occupational Health will:

(1) Identify and diagnose latex sensitive employees.

(2) Provide plan for treatment and education.

(3) Ensure that if an injury/illness occur involving latex, the Office of Workers Compensation Programs (OWCP) form titled Notice of Occupational Disease and Claim for Compensation (CA-2) would be completed. If the injury/illness does not require a CA-2 to be submitted to OWCP, the document would be filed in the employee's medical record.

e. Healthcare Provider will:

(1) Identify and diagnose latex sensitive patients.

(2) Write order to flag patient records: “Latex sensitive”.

(3) Write order to limit latex exposure.

(4) Provide education.

f. Logistics will:

(1) Procure only emulsions/moisturizers made for use in medical settings.

(2) Procure latex-free supplies when available and indicated.

(3) Make latex free crash carts available for hospital-wide use.

(4) Make latex-free gloves available hospital wide.

g. Service Line Directors will:

(1) Reference Latex Safety HCSM CD11-20 in service line safety plan.

(2) Oversee plan to reduce latex products in the environment.

(3) Assess adequacy of latex-reduced environment for patients and employees.

(4) Make recommendations to correct deficiencies.

(5) Assess for appropriate equipment to allow a latex sensitive employee to do his/her job.

h. Infection Control:

Review and communicate recent findings in the literature and recommended changes from government agencies on latex sensitivity.

**4.** **PROCEDURES**:

a. Employees:

(1) Are responsible to limit their exposure to latex by using latex-free gloves if possible.

(2) Will report symptoms suggestive of latex sensitivity to Occupational Health. (Dermatological or allergy studies may be indicated).

 (3) Found to be latex sensitive:

(a) Will be advised to limit contact to latex as much as possible both at work and at home.

(b) Will be provided education on latex containing items and pathophysiology of sensitivity process.

(c) Will follow recommendations that may be made on a case by case basis.

1. **REFERENCES:** VA Directive 7701, Comprehensive Occupational Safety and Health Program, May 5, 2017

Center for Disease Control (CDC), National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Preventing Allergic Reactions to Natural Rubber Latex in the Workplace, NIOSH Pub. No. 97-135.

 Up To Date OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(3)(iii

**6.** **RESCISSIONS:** February 2018

7. **REVIEW DATE:** February 2022

**8.** **PREPARED BY:** Occupational Health Nurse

**9.** **FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Occupational Health Nurse,

 Service Line Director, PSM

/s/

BRENT A THELEN, PhD

Health Care System Director