



## MESN Trending Topic Latex Allergies

*If your medical staff has clinicians or sees patients with a latex allergy, consider contacting our office to book a speaker on this topic at 877-505-4777 or [info@speakersnetwork.com](mailto:info@speakersnetwork.com)*

### What is the problem (C2)?

At least 7.7 million people are employed in the growing health care industry. While there are no overall statistics on the prevalence of latex allergy in that work force, studies do indicate that 8 to 12% of health care workers regularly exposed are sensitized, compared with 1 to 6% of the general population. Other workers who use natural latex gloves frequently are also at higher risk, such as hairdressers, housekeepers, and food service workers. Symptoms may progress from skin redness, hives, and itching; to more severe respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes, scratchy throat, and asthma. In rare cases, latex allergies can result in shock. Although 'latex-free' is probably not attainable, clinicians can take precautions to reduce the risk of developing a latex allergy and to protect patients from reactions as well, through frequent handwashing, surface and floor cleaning, and removal of all known latex items.

### How do we know this is a problem (C2)?

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthcommunication/toolstemplates/entertainment/tips/latexallergy.html>  
<http://www.allergyasthmanetwork.org/about/news-events/statistics/>  
<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/879081>

### Why does this problem exist? (C2)

*X Lack knowledge about the problem(s)*  
*X Lack strategies to apply knowledge to practice (competence)*

### What do attendees need? (C2)

Participants need education on reducing risk of developing a latex allergy and protecting patients from latex reactions.

### Learning Objectives (C3)

At the conclusion of this activity, the learners will be able to:

- 1) Describe latex and products that contain this substance, e.g., balloons, rubber bands, blood pressure cuffs, catheters, oxygen tubing
- 2) Identify what groups in the population are more at risk for latex allergy **(IMQ's CLC requirement)**
- 3) Cite the three types of latex reactions - IgE-mediated allergic reactions, cell mediated contact dermatitis, irritant dermatitis
- 4) Assess and diagnose a latex allergy

**Educational Delivery Method (C5):**

- ❑ Didactic lecture
- ❑ Question and answer session
- ❑ Case presentations

**Rationale for Delivery Method (C5):**

- ❑ Knowledge conveyed in a short time
- ❑ Application of knowledge to potential practice

**Professional Competencies (C6):**

- ❑ **Patient Care** - Provide care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective treatment for health problems and to promote health.
- ❑ **Medical Knowledge** - Demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical and cognate sciences and their application in patient care.
- ❑ **Interpersonal and Communication Skills** - Demonstrate skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families, and professional associates (e.g. fostering a therapeutic relationship that is ethically sound, uses effective listening skills with non-verbal and verbal communication; working as both a team member and at times as a leader).

**SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ONLINE ACTIVITIES**

Our speakers are available for web-based activities as well as in-person activities. Our speakers can also produce pre- and post-test questions if your organization requests for compliance with the AMA's assessment requirement for online activities.