

# *Working Towards Latex Safe Environments (Contact and Airborne Transmission) Prevention and Management*

*A Primary Care Overview & Patient Experience*

June 2014

# Purpose of Today

- ▶ To create education, awareness and vigilance among the use of non-natural rubber latex equivalent purchases (equipment and supplies), across Leadership, Clinic teams and Patients.


# ...a patient/teams perspective

- ▶ Patient Safety Panel –2013 Saskatchewan Quality Summit


<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlqc3eWxSUc>

# .....a couple of perspectives

## Food and Drug Administration (United States) & Health Canada (Canada)

- ▶ Based on the FDA (2013) recommendations: *“There’s No Guarantee of Latex Free”*. FDA recommendation is to use more scientifically accurate language “Does not contain natural rubber latex”.
  - ▶ **FDA USA**– is aware of no tests that can show a medical product is completely without the natural rubber latex proteins that can cause allergic reactions
  - ▶ **Health Canada recommendations:** If the product contains natural rubber latex this has to be identified. There is no specific wording required there is only the requirement that this be identified.
  - ▶ **Health Canada** – The move towards a wording change may be industry driven, but in the end, if the interpretation of the regulations is met there are no issues.
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# What is the difference between Latex Safe Environments & Latex Free Supplies

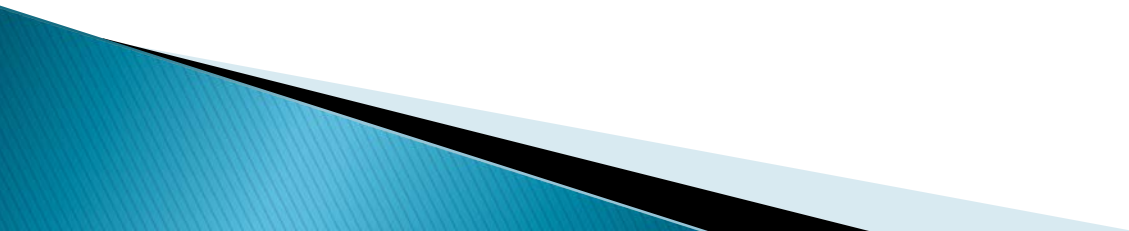
- ▶ **Latex Safe environments**– A term used to describe an environment that minimizes the risk of a reaction occurring in sensitized or allergic individuals. This is achieved by either removing (when there is an alternate substitute and financially feasible) or reducing inventory of natural rubber latex products that are the most likely to cause a reaction.
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# What is the difference between Latex Safe Environments & Latex Free Supplies

- ▶ **Latex Free** – Current term used to describe products (supplies and equipment) not manufactured from Natural Rubber Latex (NRL). The term was not used within the Primary Care guideline to describe these products (based on Food and Drug Administration DRAFT Guidance). Instead the terminology used is “Not made with natural rubber latex”.

# What are the Types of latex ?

Manufacturers produce two types of products from natural latex sources.....



# Natural rubber latex (NRL) Dipped Latex

- ▶ Comes from the milky sap of various plants (i.e., the commercial rubber tree *Hevea brasiliensis*) and in its droplet form is coated with proteins.
- ▶ It is this protein substance that can be absorbed through the skin or inhaled if the powder used in the gloves (which absorbs the protein) becomes airborne on removal.

Chemicals (rubber accelerators) added to the latex and the starch in the powder are also possible allergens

Dipped latex of this kind is found in some products that are stretchy, such as rubber gloves, balloons and condoms

- ▶ Most allergic reactions to latex occur with products made of dipped latex because they're often used directly on the skin



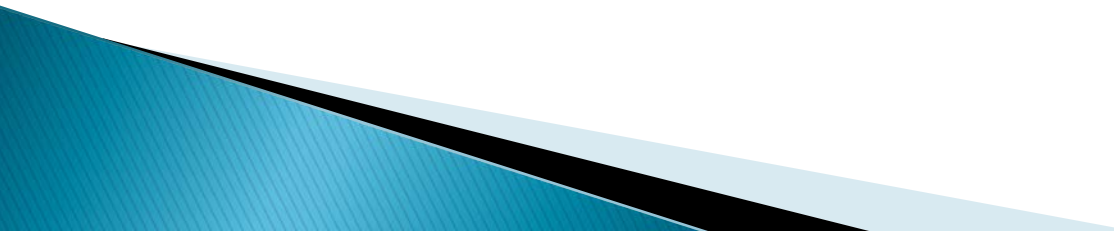
# Dry Natural Rubber (DNR) Hardened rubber

- ▶ This type of latex is found in products such as athletic shoes, tires and rubber balls. Hardened rubber doesn't cause allergies in most people.
  - **Other rubber**– Rarely, some people who are sensitive to latex also may react to other rubber products, including erasers, rubber toy parts, rubber bands, rubber in medical devices and rubber in the elastic in clothing.
- ▶ Not all latex products are made from natural sources. Products containing man-made (synthetic) latex, such as latex paint, are unlikely to cause a reaction because they don't contain the natural substance. Some waterproof sealants may contain natural rubber latex, however, so be sure to read the label before using them.

# Routes of natural rubber latex exposure Airborne & Contact

- ▶ **Cutaneous** – via gloves, tapes, masks, urine drainage bags
- ▶ **Mucous membranes**– via products in dentistry, anesthesia, intubation, rectal, urological and gynecological examinations (including intra-uterine devices), eye and ear droppers
- ▶ **Inhalation** – via aerosolization of latex glove powder
- ▶ **Internal tissue/organs** – via latex products used in surgery
- ▶ **Intravascular**– via latex products used in intravascular devices (i.e., IV cannula), devices used to deliver IV fluid and injectable (syringes and IV administration sets) or products stored or drawn up through rubber bungs or devices containing latex

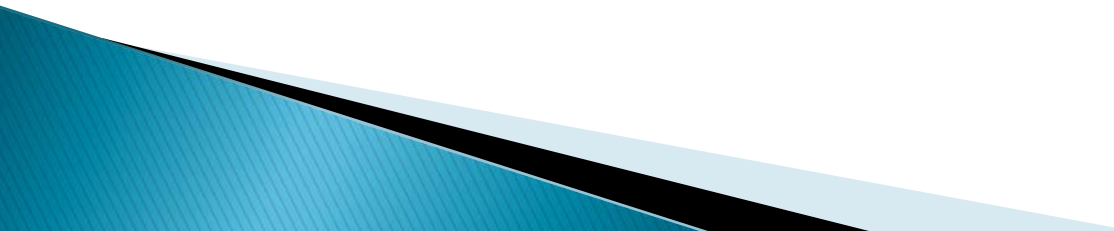
**What can we do and say together  
to support a Latex Safe  
environment for both Patients and  
Staff?**




# What can we say.....

- ▶ We are not able to control our external environment... but we are continually striving to be Latex Safe.

## Why?

- ▶ To avoid giving a false sense of security to patients and families who are allergic to natural rubber latex
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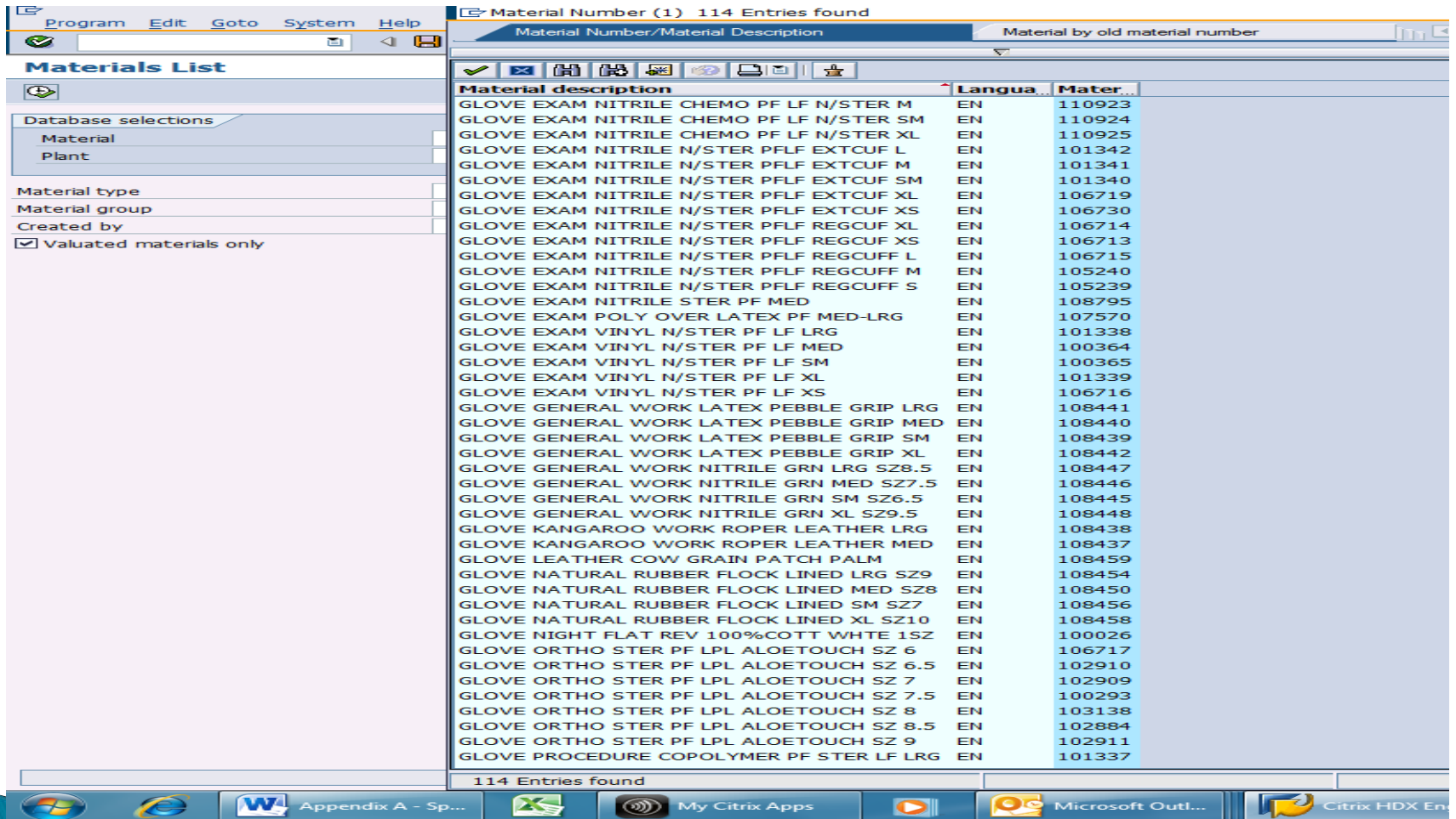
# Role of the entire Primary Care Clinic Team:

- ▶ Implement the Specific Latex Safe Checklist and Procedures (See Primary Care Guideline Appendix A)
  - ▶ Provide Latex Safe Checklist to Patients who have a Latex allergy
  - ▶ Communicate with the Pharmacy about Patient's Latex allergy
  - ▶ The clinic team to engage patients and visitors (where practical) of the importance to not use or bring in latex products. Through raising awareness & education (posting clinic signage) in high traffic staff and clinic patient/family areas
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# Supply Ordering and Replacement:

- ▶ Primary Care Assistants are responsible to order supplies on contract that **are not made** with natural rubber latex. SAP identifies this as **LF (=Latex free)** within the requisition process of the system
- ▶ Team Managers are responsible to decide when it is practical and fiscally feasible. In cases where supplies and equipment are not fiscally feasible, determine if a small amount of supplies that do not contain natural rubber latex can be kept on hand (An example, natural rubber condoms are very expensive to dispense). Also highlight to FMPC program Administrative Director when a latex free alternative should be explored.

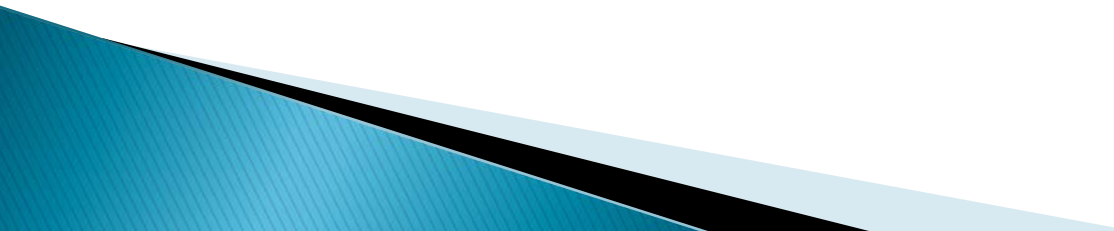
# Where to look in SAP.....



The screenshot displays the SAP Materials List transaction. The left sidebar contains the 'Materials List' header and a 'Database selections' section with fields for 'Material' and 'Plant'. Below this, there are checkboxes for 'Material type', 'Material group', 'Created by', and 'Valuated materials only' (which is checked). The main area shows a table of materials with columns for 'Material description', 'Language', and 'Material number'. The table lists 114 entries, all starting with 'GLOVE EXAM' and ending with 'N/STER'. The bottom status bar indicates '114 Entries found'.

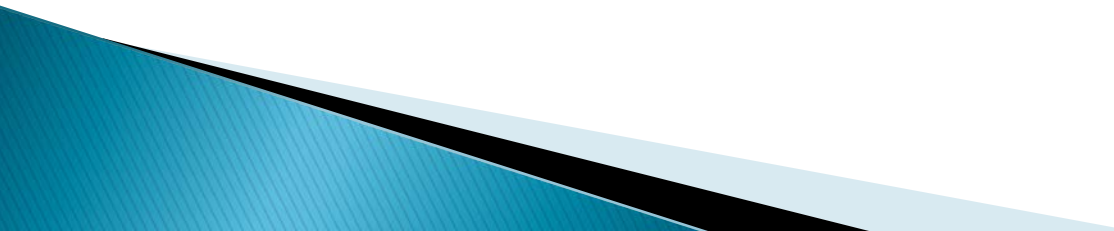
Material description	Language	Material number
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE CHEMO PF LF N/STER M	EN	110923
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE CHEMO PF LF N/STER SM	EN	110924
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE CHEMO PF LF N/STER XL	EN	110925
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF EXTCUF L	EN	101342
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF EXTCUF M	EN	101341
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF EXTCUF SM	EN	101340
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF EXTCUF XL	EN	106719
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF EXTCUF XS	EN	106730
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF REGCUF XL	EN	106714
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF REGCUF XS	EN	106713
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF REGCUF L	EN	106715
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF REGCUF M	EN	105240
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE N/STER PFLF REGCUF S	EN	105239
GLOVE EXAM NITRILE STER PF MED	EN	108795
GLOVE EXAM POLY OVER LATEX PF MED-LRG	EN	107570
GLOVE EXAM VINYL N/STER PF LF LRG	EN	101338
GLOVE EXAM VINYL N/STER PF LF MED	EN	100364
GLOVE EXAM VINYL N/STER PF LF SM	EN	100365
GLOVE EXAM VINYL N/STER PF LF XL	EN	101339
GLOVE EXAM VINYL N/STER PF LF XS	EN	106716
GLOVE GENERAL WORK LATEX PEBBLE GRIP LRG	EN	108441
GLOVE GENERAL WORK LATEX PEBBLE GRIP MED	EN	108440
GLOVE GENERAL WORK LATEX PEBBLE GRIP SM	EN	108439
GLOVE GENERAL WORK LATEX PEBBLE GRIP XL	EN	108442
GLOVE GENERAL WORK NITRILE GRN LRG SZ8.5	EN	108447
GLOVE GENERAL WORK NITRILE GRN MED SZ7.5	EN	108446
GLOVE GENERAL WORK NITRILE GRN SM SZ6.5	EN	108445
GLOVE GENERAL WORK NITRILE GRN XL SZ9.5	EN	108448
GLOVE KANGAROO WORK ROPER LEATHER LRG	EN	108438
GLOVE KANGAROO WORK ROPER LEATHER MED	EN	108437
GLOVE LEATHER COW GRAIN PATCH PALM	EN	108459
GLOVE NATURAL RUBBER FLOCK LINED LRG SZ9	EN	108454
GLOVE NATURAL RUBBER FLOCK LINED MED SZ8	EN	108450
GLOVE NATURAL RUBBER FLOCK LINED SM SZ7	EN	108456
GLOVE NATURAL RUBBER FLOCK LINED XL SZ10	EN	108458
GLOVE NIGHT FLAT REV 100% COTT WHITE 1SZ	EN	100026
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 6	EN	106717
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 6.5	EN	102910
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 7	EN	102909
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 7.5	EN	100293
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 8	EN	103138
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 8.5	EN	102884
GLOVE ORTHO STER PF LPL ALOETOUCH SZ 9	EN	102911
GLOVE PROCEDURE COPOLYMER PF STER LF LRG	EN	101337

# If no other alternative to Natural Rubber Latex products consider the following:

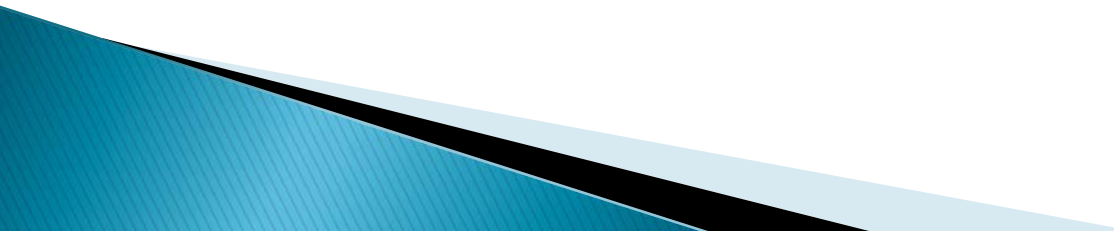
- 1) Reduce the maximum and reorder point
  - 2) Reduce the purchase unit quantity of requested stock where possible
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- ▶ Sites to develop a cart or bin that is labeled and only contains supplies that are NOT made of natural rubber latex.
  - ▶ Store Latex free supplies separate from natural rubber latex supplies
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# What to do when a patient has a Latex reaction?

- ▶ Type I response – Follow the Emergency Management for Anaphylactic Reaction
  - ▶ Type IV latex reaction review possible causes.
  - ▶ If either occurs in clinic: An occurrence should be reported through regular occurrence reporting mechanisms (RL6) to support clinic and system improvements.
  - ▶ A discussion should occur with the patient, clinical leadership and Primary Care Home Provider post event to review the reaction, look for possible causes and remove them or reduce exposure. Everyone is to look for ways to continue to improve working towards a latex safe environment.
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# What is the System doing....

- ▶ Discussion on whether the System needs to develop a Regional Policy is underway
  - ▶ Primary Care is working with Logistics around supplies & equipment that are labelled “Latex free”. Logistics have many supplies that indicate “latex free”.
  - ▶ Based on an environmental scan across Primary Care sites (August 2012) sites are continuing to working towards a latex safe environments
  - ▶ Spread Learning across sites on “latex free” supplies available for order and gaps to continue efforts towards Latex Safe environments (in early stages)
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# Questions?

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