

PROCEDURE FOR: Allergies: Identification of Patient Allergies

- POLICY:
1. At the point of entry (for example, triage area in the Emergency Department) all patients must be assessed for the presence of allergies to medications, foods or other allergens, as well as to the associated reaction(s).
  2. Green plastic allergy bands will be applied to identify patient allergies.
    - a. In the case of an obese patient, two ID bands can be linked together for a comfortable fit.
    - b. Consider applying the band to the ankle if the wrist is not feasible.
  3. Allergies will be documented in the patient record.

On CPOE floors, allergies must be entered by either the LIP or the nurse prior to any order entry. If allergy history has been stored in LCR (Lifetime Clinical Record) the history must be reviewed and the update documented prior to entering orders.

- a. Front of medical record - with allergy tape
  - b. Medication Administration Record
  - c. Kardex
  - d. Infusion Record
  - e. Dietary Sheet (if food allergy)
  - f. Unit-specific documentation as indicated
4. Precautions for patients with known allergies will be implemented to prevent and/or minimize severity of reactions. These precautions may include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Identification and elimination of causative factors in the patient's environment.
    - b. Medications and equipment to support cardiorespiratory function during a severe allergic reaction are located in emergency carts on the unit.
  5. New allergies identified during hospitalization will be documented and managed in the same manner.
  6. Discontinuation of allergy precautions will occur by written order only.

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In CPOE, discontinuation of allergy alert precautions will occur only as the result of an electronic data entry, inactivation or marking of erroneous by a physician, nurse or pharmacist and the name of that individual will be stored along with the date and time of the revision.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/81

REVISION DATES: 3/86, 9/88, 7/93, 5/94, 9/96, 10/97, 11/99, 11/02, 2/06,  
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