



QUINTE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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Patient – Allergy Management

Title: Patient – Allergy Management		Policy No:	3.18.10
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Manual:	Administration	Last Review/Revision Date:	
Department:	Corporate	Policy Lead:	Director Professional Practice
Approved By:	Nursing Practice Committee		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define and provide organizational policy for the assessment, documentation and communication of allergies and adverse reactions for all patients. In doing so, the goal is to have improved and standardized allergy documentation throughout the organization and improved accuracy of Drug, Food and Environmental allergies and the adverse reactions within the patient’s health record.

POLICY

All known food, drug and environmental allergies will be identified and documented at the time of initial assessment and/or admission for all inpatients and outpatients.

All admitted, emergency department, and same day surgery patients with an allergy will have a red Allergy Alert armband placed on their wrist next to the identification armband. For patients in other out-patient settings, consideration to the application of the allergy band is needed if the patient will be in the hospital for any length of time and/or receiving any treatment.

DEFINITIONS

See Appendix A

PROCEDURE

- i. Allergy documentation occurs in the patient's electronic health record, using the Allergy management module. Refer to down-time procedures if needed.
- ii. Allergies will be selected from the list (coded allergies), with the appropriate category and additional information provided in the reaction and comment sections.
- iii. When a drug or environmental allergy is unable to be selected from the allergen (coded) list, a free text entry can be used with additional information provided in the reaction and comment sections. For a food allergy use the choice of "Not Listed".
- iv. In the event that a discrepancy is found when confirming a documented and verified allergy, the discrepancy must be communicated to Pharmacy, via the CMAR communication form and/or pharmacy consult should be completed.
- v. At the time of allergy assessment, a red allergy armband will be placed on the patient prior to the implementation of any treatment or interventions.
- vi. Pharmacy will verify all drug and environmental allergies for patients who have orders sent to pharmacy.
- vii. Dieticians will verify any food allergy.
- viii. Medical Radiation Technologist will verify allergies for contrast media if a patient undergoes a radiology procedure.

APPENDICES AND REFERENCES

Appendices: Appendix A – Definitions

References:

Lakeridge Health. (2010). Centralized Allergy Management, Self-Directed Learning Module.

Perry, A.G. & Potter, P.A. (2005). Fundamentals of Nursing, (6th ed.). St. Louis, Missouri: Mosby Inc.