ALAA Releases Third Edition of EMS: Guidelines for the Care of the Latex-Allergic Patient

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Latex Allergy Association (A.L.E.R.T., Inc.) Releases Third Edition of *Emergency Medical Services: Guidelines for the Care of the Latex-Allergic Patient.*

MILWAUKEE, WI (December 8, 2006) ? The American Latex Allergy Association (A.L.E.R.T., Inc.) has released its third edition of Emergency Medical Services: Guidelines for the Care of the Latex-Allergic Patient. This 84-page manual contains resources to educate and assist Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel as they strive to create a latex-safe patient care environment. New to this edition is a section detailing each state?s epinephrine policies. Natural rubber latex is produced from the sap of the Malaysian rubber tree, Hevea brasiliensis, and is a component in over 40,000 medical and household products. Some individuals who have repeated exposure can develop an allergic response to the proteins in natural rubber latex, resulting in symptoms ranging from mild to life threatening. Symptoms of natural rubber latex allergy can include skin rashes, nasal congestion, itchy or teary eyes, facial swelling, chest tightness, and/or breathing difficulty. Individuals with a severe natural rubber latex allergy can experience anaphylaxis, a potentially fatal allergic response.

Epinephrine is the treatment of choice for anaphylactic allergic reactions, and state policies vary widely as to which EMS personnel are allowed to carry and administer epinephrine. The state policies outlined in the updated manual will be of help to people who wish to determine the level of care in their area, as well as to those who are working toward policy and/or legislative changes in their state. The American Latex Allergy Association (A.L.E.R.T., Inc.) wishes to thank the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network for their assistance in compiling the state information, as well as the state EMS directors who responded to individual requests for information.

The manual has been partially funded by Dey Pharmaceuticals, and will be available from the American Latex Allergy Association (A.L.E.R.T., Inc.) for $45.00 as of January 1, 2007.

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