**Appendix A**

**Natural Rubber Latex (NRL)**

NRL is a substance which comes within the scope of COSHH. NRL proteins have the potential to cause asthma and urticaria. More serious allergic reactions, such as anaphylaxis, are also possible. The exposure of NRL to staff and patients must be removed or reduced to as far as is reasonably practicable in the Trust.  There are strict controls on the issue of gloves to staff, the Trust does not use powdered gloves and alternatives to NRL, nitrile and PVC are readily available.  In a small number of certain clinical specialties NRL is used where a high level of dexterity and sensitivity is required.  In these cases, a risk assessment needs to be in place that demonstrates the critical need for NRL and that any potential allergy to staff or patient has been assessed, controlled, and monitored.  The following points shall be observed:

* Procurement will be fully aware of the need to buy non NRL products.
* Use of NRL products where skin contact is likely will be strictly controlled through the procurement process.
* All new starters will be screened for allergies pre-employment.
* Potential skin problems of all staff will be assessed at least annually and overseen by Occupational Health
* Managers will immediately refer to Occupational Health, any member of staff who exhibits any sign of an allergenic reaction to a substance.
* Potential allergies will form part of Health & Safety and Infection Control training.
* At induction, local induction and within the MLE learning packages, the problems associated with NRL will be clearly stated.
* All allergies that are because of exposure to a substance at work will be reported on Datix.