



Policies & Procedures

- Administrative Documents
- Clinical Documents
 - Infection Prevention and Control Manual
 - Interdisciplinary Clinical Manual**
 - AA Practice Agreement #JB-2016-10
 - AA Practice Agreement #LB-2016-10
 - AA Practice Agreement #LC-2016-10
 - Abbreviations, Acronyms and Symbols
 - Abbreviations, Acronyms & Symbols Reference List DO NOT USE List of
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| POLICY | Manual: Clinical | Section: Interdisciplinary Clinical | Code No.: I E007 | Old Code No.: POLE7, I E7 |
|--|------------------|--|--|--|
| Title: Epidural Catheters - for Administration of Epidural Analgesia | | | Original Effective Date: Nov 01, 2000 | Review/Revised Effective Date: Oct 05, 2018 |
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At Southlake Regional Health Centre the following must be adhered to whenever administering analgesia via an epidural catheter:

1. Administration of epidural analgesia must have a written order by an Anesthesiologist, which will include: date, time, the agent, dose, volume and concentration and signature. Follow the [APS Standard Order Set](#) and [Obstetric Epidural Analgesia Order Set](#).
2. The Anesthesiologist must give the initial dose of epidural medication.
3. The RN or Midwife must be certified to care for patients receiving epidural analgesia by completing the Learning Package "Epidural/Intrathecal Analgesic" as well as following and annually reviewing the [Epidural Catheters for Administration of Epidural Analgesia](#) policy, [Epidural Analgesia - Care of Patient](#) standard of care, [Epidural Bolus Analgesia-Administration of procedure](#), [Epidural Catheters - Removal](#) procedure, [Epidural Dressing Change](#) procedure, [Epidural Catheters - Assisting Physician with Insertion](#) procedure, [Pain Assessment](#) standard of care, [Sedation and Agitation Levels - Assessment of standard of care](#) and [Independent Double Check](#) procedure.
4. All patients receiving epidural medication must have a patent IV line.
5. Anesthesiologist will note on the [Acute Pain Service \(APS\)](#) order set when post-op analgesia can begin on patients if they have received narcotic analgesia via epidural or intrathecally.
6. Epidural lines must be labeled "epidural" or have a distinct identifier.
7. Epidural lines must utilize an antibacterial filter.
8. Continuous epidural infusion lines must have no Y sites.
9. Continuous epidural infusions must utilize Sapphire Epidural infusion pump.
10. Use only preservative-free solutions.
11. Only an Anesthesiologist, Nurse Practitioner on Acute Pain Service (APS), or RNs in ICU, PACU, Birthing Unit and Midwives can administer subsequent epidural bolus doses.
12. Prior to giving subsequent epidural medication administration by an RN/Midwife, the drug, dose, patient and correct placement of the epidural catheter must be verified. Placement is verified by comparing the length of the catheter (cm) with the Anesthesiologist's documentation at the time of insertion.
13. The **only** anticoagulants approved with epidural infusion therapy by APS are prophylactic:
 - i. Heparin 5,000 units or less subcutaneous q 12h or
 - ii. Enoxaparin 40 mg or less q 24h.

Other use of therapeutic anticoagulation and/or antiplatelets on patients with epidural catheters **must** be reviewed and approved by APS (Acute Pain Service) **prior** to administration. Please refer to the Acute Pain Service Order Set, [APS Associated Document](#) -Physician Guidelines for the list of anticoagulants and antiplatelet medications **contraindicated** with epidurals and **must not be initiated** without the approval of the Anesthesiologist.
13. An epidural catheter cannot be removed if a patient is on any anticoagulants including but not limited to those listed on the [APS Associated Document](#), unless specifically approved and ordered by the APS Anesthesiologist.
14. Changing an epidural dressing requires an order from APS.

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- › Staying with Admitted Mother
- › Buprenorphine for Paediatric Patients - Use of
- › Catheter - Care of Urinary Catheter in Adults
- › Catheter - Continuous Bladder Irrigation in Adults
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- Feeding Tube - Care of Enteral Feed in the Adult Patient
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- Feeding Tube - Adult Enteral Nutrition - Initiation and Management
- Feeding Tube - Securing With Bridle Device By Critical Care RN
- Food Allergies - Provision of Food to Patients with Formulary System (located in Medication Use manual)
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 - › Within Southlake - Guidelines
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 - › Laboratory Results - Review and Reporting
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 - › Management on In-Patient Units: Critical Care, PACU, Inpatient Surgery, Surgical Special Care, MSK, Cardiovascular Surgery, Paediatrics, Palliative and Cancer Care Units
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 - › Malignant Hyperthermia - Screening and Management of Patients at Risk
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 - › Medication Administration - Responsibilities of Healthcare Professionals (located in Medication Use manual)
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 - › Medical Assistance in Dying
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 - › Medication - Standard Administration Times (located in Medication Use manual)
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- › Non Formulary Drugs - Criteria for Provision of (located in Medication Use manual)
- › Non-Invasive Positive Airway Pressure for Adults
- › Non-Invasive Positive Airway Pressure for Adults
- › NP-CARD-2019 NP Medical Directive for Cardiology Continuous Positive
- › Airway Pressure (CPAP) in infants in the NICU
- › NP-APS-2015 NP Medical Directive for Acute Pain Service
- › NP-HEART-2016 NP Medical Directive for Heart Rhythm
- › NP-EDU-2016 NP Medical Directive for Eating Disorders Unit
- › NP-MCC-2016 NP Medical Directive for Medicine and Stroke Patients
- › NP-ONCO-2019 NP Medical Directive for Oncology
- › NP-STROKE-2017 NP Medical Directive for Stroke Prevention Clinic
- › Nurse Practitioner Standard of Care
- › Oral Care for Inpatients
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- › Orders for Patient Care - Giving and Taking of Verbal/Telephone Orders
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- ▶ Pregnancy: Occupational Exposure to Radiation and Electromagnetic Fields (located in Staff Safety manual)
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