



Changing Epidural Infusion Bag Procedure

Procedure Number

CHC-PE-0001

Version Nos:

3

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of ensuring that an Epidural Infusion Bag is changed safely by approved West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) staff members.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all staff working with epidurals throughout WCDHB.

3. Definitions

There are no definitions associated with this Procedure.

4. Staff Authorised To Perform Procedure

This Procedure shall be performed by a MIV and Epidural Certified Registered Nurse/Midwife/Anaesthetic Technicians and Anaesthetists.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Correct Epidural Infusion bag & associated drugs.
- ii) Epidural Prescription Sheet

6. Process

- 1.00 Epidural infusion pump will alarm when the infusion bag has 5mls of solution remaining
- 1.01 Wash hands.
- 1.02 Two nurses, one being WCDHB MIV and Epidural certified, are to check the drugs to be added to the fluid against those stated on the Epidural Prescription Sheet after correct ID has been confirmed.
- 1.03 Peel off the seal covering the access port of the bag using a no touch technique.
Note: Drugs are added through the outlet port on the bag, using a 21 gauge needle
- 1.04 Shake the bag completely and apply a completed yellow medication additive sticker.
- 1.05 With the second checker at the bedside, correctly identify patient and explain procedure.
- 1.06 Push run/stop (pause) button on the Epidural pump.
- 1.07 Unlock drug container holder and remove the old bag.
- 1.08 Swab the connection port with a chlorhexidine and alcohol swab. Allow to dry prior to replacing the bag.



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- 1.09 Relock drug container holder.
- 1.10 Remove security code from the Epidural pump.
- 1.11 If no changes in rate or infusion bag volume size, push the **reset** button on the pump and follow the instructions.
- 1.12 Check the programme against the epidural prescription for safety.
- 1.13 Reinsert the security code into the Epidural pump.
- 1.14 Recommence infusion by pushing run/stop (pause) button.
- 1.15 Wash hands
- 1.16 Document the procedure in the patient's clinical record

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Two nurses, one being WCDHB MIV and Epidural certified, are to check the drugs to be added
- ➔ Drugs are added through the outlet port on the bag, using a 21 gauge needle.
- ➔ After replacing with the new bag, relock the drug container holder.
- ➔ See individual pump instructions for changing infusion rate and how to remove air in line.

8. References

Acute Pain Management Service – Christchurch Hospital
Canterbury Health Policy & Procedure Manual
Canterbury Health Fluid & Medication Manual

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Epidural Standard
WCDHB Epidural Procedure

Revision History	Version:	3
	Developed By:	Dr Malcolm Stuart & Chris Black
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