



Epidural Pain Relief Procedure

Procedure Number

CHC-PE-0003

Version Nos:

3

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of ensuring that an Epidural pain relief is administered 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/Midwives/Anaesthetic Technicians and Anaesthetists.

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- i) Pain Relief Medication (drug)
- ii) Pain Management Pump
- iii) Appropriate Cannula
- iv) Epidural Infusion Prescription Sheet and Epidural Management Document.

6. Process

- 1.00 Registered Nurses/Midwives/Anaesthetic Technicians who have completed the WCDHB Epidural Analgesia Module may be responsible for the maintenance of Epidural infusions.
- 1.01 The initial Epidural infusion must be prescribed in writing on the Epidural infusion analgesia prescription and to include the drug(s) and the dose (clearly stating mg or mcg, volume and concentration)), and administered by an Anesthetist.
- 1.02 It is the Anaesthetist's responsibility to connect and commence the Epidural analgesia. This may be delegated to recovery/anaesthetic staff but it is the anaesthetists responsibility to check it.
- 1.03 Epidural infusions should be infused through a dedicated Pain Management Pump and identified as Epidural on a separate yellow label. The Pain Management Pump requires yellow tubing as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- 1.04 IV access is mandatory during and for a period of time following Epidural Therapy.
- 1.05 Removal of Epidural Catheter is carried out in consultation with the Anaesthetist. (removal of epidural catheter is influenced by administration of LMWH).



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- 1.06 The Epidural Catheter/Infusion must be reviewed by an Anaesthetist within 24 hours following insertion.
- 1.07 The patient may be nursed in any position that is appropriate.
- 1.08 After commencement of the Epidural Infusion the patient should be continuously monitored at 5 minute intervals for the first half an hour with recordings of:
- Blood Pressure
 - Pulse
 - Respiration
 - Neurological Status
 - Pain Assessment
- 1.09 After the first half hour, observations and recordings are to be made according to Epidural Infusion Prescription Sheet and Epidural Management Document.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Registered Nurses who have completed the WCDHB Epidural Analgesia Module may be responsible for the maintenance of Epidural infusions.
- ➔ Epidural infusions should be infused through a dedicated Pain Management Pump
- ➔ It is the Anaesthetist's responsibility to connect and commence the Epidural analgesia

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 Infusion Prescription Sheet
WCDHB Epidural Management Document

Revision History	Version:	3
	Developed By:	Anaesthetist, CNE Perioperative Services
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