

CCTC POLICY OF THE MONTH: EPIDURALS

September 2011

**An order
must be
written by
APS or
delegate**

- For adults, an INR \leq 1.3 must be confirmed by blood sample, prior to removal

**This is a
clean
procedure.**

- Assess the site for signs of infection
- Swab insertion site with chlorhexidine and *allow to dry completely*
- Apply an occlusive 3M tegaderm™ dressing

**SAFE
REMOVAL
OF AN
EPIDURAL
CATHETER**

**Unfractionated
Heparin 5000
units SC q12h**

- removal timed **11** hours after last dose
- give next dose one hour after removal

**Dalteparin
(Fragmin)
5000 units SC
daily**

- removal time **22** hours after last dose
- give next dose two hours after removal

**EPIDURAL
REMOVAL**

Continued....

PROCEDURE DETAILS



Patient may be in sitting or lying position. Ask your patient to arch his/her back as in the fetal position

Loosen the dressing while supporting the catheter.

Gently apply traction to the catheter

After some initial resistance, the catheter should start to slide out

If it does not, ask the patient to bend further

PROCEDURE DETAILS



Do not use force

Do not stretch the catheter

IF the patient experiences pain during the removal, STOP and call the APS or designate

IF it will not come out, redress and call the APS or delegate.

Observe the catheter tip to verify the presence of a black tip. This ensures removal of the entire catheter. If the tip appears to be missing, save the catheter and notify APS or delegate.

NOTE: Hematoma can occur up to 24 hours after removal

IN-SERVICE BLITZ!

- DAILY
- 1400, 1500, 1600
1700, 2000 & 2100

ONE HOUR LONG

- COVERING: CADD Epidural pump; PCA Omnifuse, Level 1 Rapid Infuser & the *new* HOTLINE fluid warmer

STAY
TUNED!

September
12th to 16th

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW, PLEASE RESPOND BEFORE OCTOBER 3RD!

Completion of the “Epidural Self-Learning Package” is mandatory for any RN caring for a patient with an epidural. LHSC policy states that an RN may remove an epidural ONLY if she/he has read and signed-off on the learning package.

Please Note: Completion of the Epidural SLP is a ONE-TIME ONLY activity. Once done, you do NOT need to do the entire package again!

To be entered in the draw for this month, please have the epidural package read and signed off by October 3rd, 2011!!

[HTTP://WWW.LHSC.ON.CA/
PRIV/PAIN/INDEX.HTM](http://www.lhsc.on.ca/priv/pain/index.htm)

Visit the APS
website at: