



## **Acute Pain Team – Access statement**

### **Who are we and what do we do?**

Delivering high quality acute pain management is a requirement of a modern health service to meet expectations of patients and carers. It enables prevention and management of serious peri-operative complications. (Royal College of Anaesthetists, 2014) An acute pain service is a requirement and core standard of the Faculty of Pain Medicine and enhances patient outcomes and experience (2015).

The acute pain team based at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital is integrated with the Pain Management Centre and consists of a team of 8 specialist nurses who work alongside our pain consultants. The nurses are able to assess and manage acute and chronic pain. Our role is to:

- advise on inpatient acute pain management for all patients
- regularly review all patients with an epidural, paravertebral and local anaesthetic infusion (excluding obstetrics and orthopaedic NERPS)
- undertake regular review of acute inpatient pain problems
- undertake formal and informal education of ward-based staff in clinical areas
- undertake audit and participate in research, write policies and guidelines for pain management
- develop policies and guidelines for pain management
- deliver formal education for all disciplines with medical colleagues and other healthcare professionals

- liaise with consultant anaesthetists with overall responsibility for acute pain management

The specialist nurses review every patient (excluding obstetrics) with epidural and paravertebral analgesia every day except Sunday. We review patients with PCA analgesia only if the PCA is not providing adequate pain relief.

We provide advice and review patients with complex pain and can provide assessment and potential further outpatient review for patients including:

- patients with pain and a history of drug and substance misuse opioid tolerance as a consequence of long-term opioid use and support opiate reduction
- chronic pain patients who develop acute pain and also patients with an exacerbation of a chronic pain condition
- patients at risk developing of chronic pain from an acute pain condition

We usually have consultant ward rounds 3 times a week, on a Tuesday morning and Thursday morning and a Friday afternoon where complex patients are reviewed.

We prioritise seeing patients with chronic pain only where discharge or further treatment is being delayed by pain. We are unlikely to initiate new analgesia on day of discharge.

Please ensure prescribed analgesia has been given as appropriate prior to making a new referral.

### **Accessing the Pain Team**

Our hours of service are:

Monday – Friday: 08:15-17:00

Saturday: 08:00-12:30

Our bleep number (156) is 0571

DECT Phones: 3821 / 7544

Out of hours: contact the on call anaesthetist on bleep (156) 0900

We will usually automatically review patients with epidural/ paravertebral infusions in situ (excluding obstetrics) via information generated from ORSOS. Occasionally, this information will not be available (particularly with babies going straight to NICU from theatre and adult patients having emergency surgery out of hours or going straight to CCC from theatre). In these circumstances, please bleep us to ensure that we are aware of your patient.

For all other purposes, please use our **online referral system**

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Hospital Intranet - Windows Internet Explorer" with the URL "http://intranet/communications/home.asp". The main content area is titled "Web Systems" and lists various applications such as "Acute Medical Referrals", "Appointment Reminders", "Badger System", etc. A vertical sidebar on the left contains "TRUST INFO" and "DEPARTMENTS". On the right, there are several alerts: "Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital Our Vision", a green "NOROVIRUS ALERT" banner, a "Stop" sign with a hand icon, and an "INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL" notice with statistics for C. diff and MRSA Bacteraemia. At the bottom right, there is a "Cromer" logo.

Please give us as much information about the pain problem as possible to allow us to effectively prioritise our workload. We aim to respond to urgent referrals within 30 minutes. If your referral is urgent, please bleep us.

Resources (Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital):

Adult epidural guideline via Trust Docs

Paediatric epidural guideline via Trust Docs

Adult PCA guideline via Trust Docs

Paediatric PCA guideline via Trust Docs

References:

Faculty of Pain Medicine (2015) *CSPMS. Core Standards for Pain Management*

*Services in the UK*. RCA: London. Retrieved February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from:

<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/system/files/FPM-CSPMS-UK2015.pdf>

James, D.N. (2014) *Anaesthesia Services for Acute Pain Management*. RCA: London.

Retrieved July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 from:

[https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/system/files/GPAS-2014-11-ACUTEPAIN\\_0.pdf](https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/system/files/GPAS-2014-11-ACUTEPAIN_0.pdf)