

Leaving Hospital after Removal of SCS Trial Leads

You have been given this leaflet because you had your spinal cord stimulator (SCS) trial leads removed as part of your chronic pain management plan. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

The Consultant will have discussed the possible complications of SCS trial with you before your trial implant. Serious complications from epidurals are rare (1 in 10,000).

The majority of these rare complications occurs in the two weeks after trial insertion. In the unlikely event of an epidural abscess (pus) or haematoma (blood clot) occurring it is crucial to diagnose and treat it as quickly as possible. The diagnosis and treatment should be done by specialist hospital doctors to prevent delays in treatment and long-lasting nerve damage.

Assessment before removal of epidural catheter (trial leads)

When the leads are removed the nurse will ask you to move your legs and examine you to make sure that the sensation (or feeling) in your legs is the same as before the implant. If you do have altered sensation when the leads are removed your team will discuss this with you.

After removal of your epidural catheter (trial leads)

Do you have any of the **signs and symptoms** below as a **new problem** after your trial leads were removed?

- If you are still in hospital – ask the nurse in charge to contact your consultant immediately.
- If you have left hospital (been discharged) – contact the Chronic Pain Team urgently. They may advise you to go urgently to an Accident and Emergency department (A&E). **Tell the staff in A&E that you have recently had an epidural catheter and bring this leaflet with you. They will call the neurologists.**
- If it is **out of office** hours, please go to your local Accident and Emergency department.

Signs and symptoms

- redness, pus, tenderness or pain at the epidural wound site
- feeling generally unwell despite the fact that all seems well with the surgical wound
- high temperature, neck stiffness, headache
- numbness and /or weakness in your legs, not able to weight bear
- difficulty passing urine or incontinence of urine and/or faeces.

Contact us

If you are unsure or need further advice please contact the Chronic Pain Service, in office hours (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) by phoning **St George's Hospital** on **020 8266 6577** and asking them to bleep the SCS pain nurse who will then call you back.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you on-the-spot advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or the care you have received. You can visit the PALS office between 9.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday in the main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings (near the lift foyer).

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS Choices

NHS Choices provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all of our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website (www.accessable.co.uk). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



Reference: NEU_TRL_01 **Published:** April 2020 **Review date:** April 2022