Frequently asked Questions (FAQ)

What are the 5 new acute pain infusion procedures?

- Management of Epidural Analgesia Infusions - Adult (Non-Labour) Procedure
- Management of Lidocaine Continuous Intravenous Infusions for Analgesia - Adult Procedure
- Management of Low-Dose Ketamine Continuous Intravenous Infusions for Analgesia - Adult Procedure
- Management of Patient-Controlled Analgesia (PCA) Intravenous Infusions for Acute Pain - Adult Procedure
- Management of Peripheral Nerve Block (PNB) Infusions – Adult Procedure

Why were these acute pain infusion procedures developed?

- To standardize the medication administration of acute pain infusions in adult patients within Acute Care
- To improve patient safety by outlining monitoring requirements
- To provide guidance to health care professionals managing these infusions

Who is authorized to prescribe these acute pain infusions?

- The authorized prescriber is usually from Anesthesia or within Acute Pain Service. In some Acute Care sites certain infusions may have a Surgeon, Nurse Practitioner or other designate to be the authorized prescriber for certain infusions.
- If you are unsure who is an authorized prescriber at your site/unit discuss with your manager or clinical nurse educator (CNE)

Can I utilize these procedures to administer acute pain infusions at my site/unit?

- These procedures were developed to help support sites/units that are already administering these types of infusions, and standardize care provincially
- These procedures can guide the implementation of these infusions at your site/unit
- If you are unsure which acute pain infusions are administered at your site/unit, please discuss with your manager or CNE

Should I follow Lippincott Procedures or these Procedures?

- These procedures are AHS Policy Documents that supersede Lippincott Procedures

How do I know if these procedures are being implemented at my site/unit?

- If you are unsure, please discuss with your manager or CNE
Who can manage these acute pain infusions?

- Healthcare professionals who have completed the required education. Zone and/or site/unit will determine the educational requirements related to the administration of these infusions.
- It is important that healthcare professionals understand their scope of practice and which infusions you can manage.

Can LPNs manage acute pain infusions?

- LPN Professional Regulations (under the Health Professions Act [Alberta]) direct which restricted activities LPNs are authorized to perform and under which conditions.
- LPN may not initiate/administer medications via epidural and PNB, initiate or remove an epidural or PNB catheter.
- These are restricted activities as per the Government Organization Act (Schedule 7.1 2(1) (a) (i) to cut a body tissue, to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue (ii) below the dermis or the mucous membrane.
- Contact your manager or educator or local Acute Pain Service to determine if your role in the management of acute pain infusions at your site/unit.
- Contact policy@ahs.ca if you need a Zone contact related to acute pain infusions.

What if an authorized prescriber wants to start implementing these infusions at my site/unit?

- It is important that the health care team for your site/unit have clarity regarding their roles to promote patient safety.
- It would be important to engage stakeholders at your site (e.g., Anesthesia, Nursing, Surgery, Pharmacy) and determine the necessary education needed for health care professionals, in addition to which site/units could support these acute pain infusions.
- Appropriate planning should occur prior to implementation to clarify role expectations.
- Engaging a multi-disciplinary team for implementation will promote collaborative care and optimal pain management.

What resources are available to support implementation at my site/unit?

- Contact your manager / CNE or local Acute Pain Service at your site/unit for support.
- Contact policy@ahs.ca if you need a Zone contact or support for acute pain infusions.

What if I work in a rural hospital with few resources?

- Contact your manager /CNE or Anesthesia at your site/unit for support.
Where can I find these documents on the web in AHS and Connect Care?

- The Pain Management – Provincial insite page has all the procedures and related information
- These procedures are posted with all AHS Policies on insite Policy Services webpage and on Clinical Policies & Procedures AHS external webpage
- Connect Care -TBA -currently working with Connect Care to have links built to these Procedures
- Contact policy@ahs.ca if you need a Zone contact for acute pain infusions