

Epidural Blood Patches for Post-Dural Puncture Headaches Resulting from Radiologic Procedures

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1. The requesting radiologist should contact the **on-call anesthesiologist** (pager number available from the Operator) or the **anesthesiologist of the day at State Street** by calling the Operating Room at 879-3580. Physician to physician contact allows for the exchange of pertinent clinical information that can affect the treatment plan.
2. Nearly all blood patches can be accomplished during weekday working hours. It is rare that it is necessary to perform an epidural blood patch after hours. If the radiologist believes that one is necessary, he or she should discuss the circumstances with the on-call anesthesiologist. **Do not send the patient to the Emergency Department unless there is a medical emergency.**
3. The anesthesiologist will arrange to contact the patient to set up an appointment for evaluation and possible blood patch.
 - a. The patient will be instructed to come to the ACU at State Street or Fore River for registration followed by the evaluation and procedure, if indicated. (The anesthesiologist or ACU staff will inform Registration once the appointment is scheduled so that the initial registration can be done in advance.)
 - b. After the procedure, the ACU RN will discharge the patient according to the anesthesiologist's instructions.
 - c. The anesthesiologist who did the procedure will arrange for telephone follow-up with the patient. Usually, the anesthesiologist him- or herself will call the patient. However, a phone call from one of the other anesthesiologists or a Spectrum Regional Block Service PA or RN is appropriate if the anesthesiologist who performed the procedure will be unavailable.
4. If ACU or PACU support is not available, Interventional Radiology is another site where the blood patch can be performed with the assistance of IR nursing staff. Should the anesthesiologist need to use space in IR, he or she should contact 879-3732 day or night (or use the universal nurse pager number 741-1256).
5. For the nursing policies regarding blood patches, refer to the Surgical Services Policy, *Blood Patch*, on the Mercy Hospital intranet website