

Local safety standards in invasive procedures in pain medicine

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Pain Management LocSSIP For Chronic Pain injections ONLY
(adapted from the WHO checklist) Has the patient been discussed at the Team Briefing? Yes No (If no – please give reason why):

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

SIGN IN (To be read out loud) → **TIME OUT (To be read out loud)** → **SIGN OUT (To be read out loud)**

Immediately after patient enters procedure area	STOP - is everyone listening? <input type="checkbox"/>	Before start of injection	STOP - is everyone listening? <input type="checkbox"/>	Before any member of the team leaves the procedure area	STOP - is everyone listening? <input type="checkbox"/>
Name and designation of performing practitioner: Responsible Consultant for the procedure: Patient states details to team: Name and DOB match wristband and consent form Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Name of procedure? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Procedure side? <input type="checkbox"/> Right <input type="checkbox"/> Left <input type="checkbox"/> Bilateral Procedure side and site marked: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (exempted) Is there valid consent? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Has the patient confirmed pregnancy status if appropriate? <input type="checkbox"/> Not appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Known allergy? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – details No <input type="checkbox"/> Anticoagulant/antiplatelet drugs stopped? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – details N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Does the patient have any metallic implants, including pacemaker or defibrillator or spinal cord stimulator? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – details No <input type="checkbox"/> Has the patient had any antibiotics in the last 5 weeks? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – details No <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Name and designation		Confirm names and roles of everyone are known to all of the team <input type="checkbox"/> Yes All members of the team verbally confirm: <input type="checkbox"/> Patient's name, DOB and ID number against consent and wristband <input type="checkbox"/> Planned procedure side, site and position Procedure: Are any variations to the standard procedure planned or likely? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – details No <input type="checkbox"/> Patient: Are there any patient-specific concerns? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – details No <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment: <input type="checkbox"/> Any equipment issues or concerns <input type="checkbox"/> X-ray <input type="checkbox"/> Ultrasound <input type="checkbox"/> Radiofrequency Grounding Pad: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – site No <input type="checkbox"/> Cannulae: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – site No <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm the correct drug and dose to be injected <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – details No <input type="checkbox"/> All medication drawn up in closed system Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Immediately prior to injection - correct site confirmed verbally <input type="checkbox"/> Signature Name and designation		Registered Practitioner verbally confirms with the team: <input type="checkbox"/> Name and side of the procedure been recorded? Swabs, sharps, guide wires, and instruments intact and accounted for? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – details Grounding pads removed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Cannulae removed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Cannulae/lines flushed <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Key concerns for recovery and/or changes to discharge protocol discussed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – details Has post procedural advice given to the patient? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – details Date Procedure area Signature Name and designation <b style="color: red;">This modified checklist must not be used for other procedures Responsible Consultant: Date and time of procedure: PATIENT DETAILS / LABEL Last name: First name: Date of birth: NHS Number: * <small>*If the NHS Number is not immediately available, a temporary number should be used until it is.</small>	

For any procedure with the need for a change in position mid procedure; or differing operative sites an additional TIME OUT and SIGN OUT must be completed

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Fig 1. Pain management Local Safety Standards for Invasive Procedure.

Introduction

A study in 2009 reported that a series of serious incidences deemed preventable with guidance and safety measures, defined by the NHS Events Framework as Never Events (NE), continue to happen across the UK.¹ To mitigate these serious incidents, the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) released a report recommending the creation and implementation of National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs), and when applied at a local level, Local Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (LocSSIPs).²

Materials and methods

In 2017, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) set up a LocSSIP steering committee, with the commitment to develop and implement LocSSIPs across the trust. The aim of this committee was to ensure the ongoing safety of patients under UHB care and achieve a measurable reduction of serious incidences in invasive procedures conducted outside of theatres.

Our aim was to create and develop LocSSIPs within the Pain Medicine Department. By making patient safety central to the introduction, we were able to identify several procedures that could benefit from LocSSIPs. Those procedures included nerve root blocks, epidurals, and denervation.

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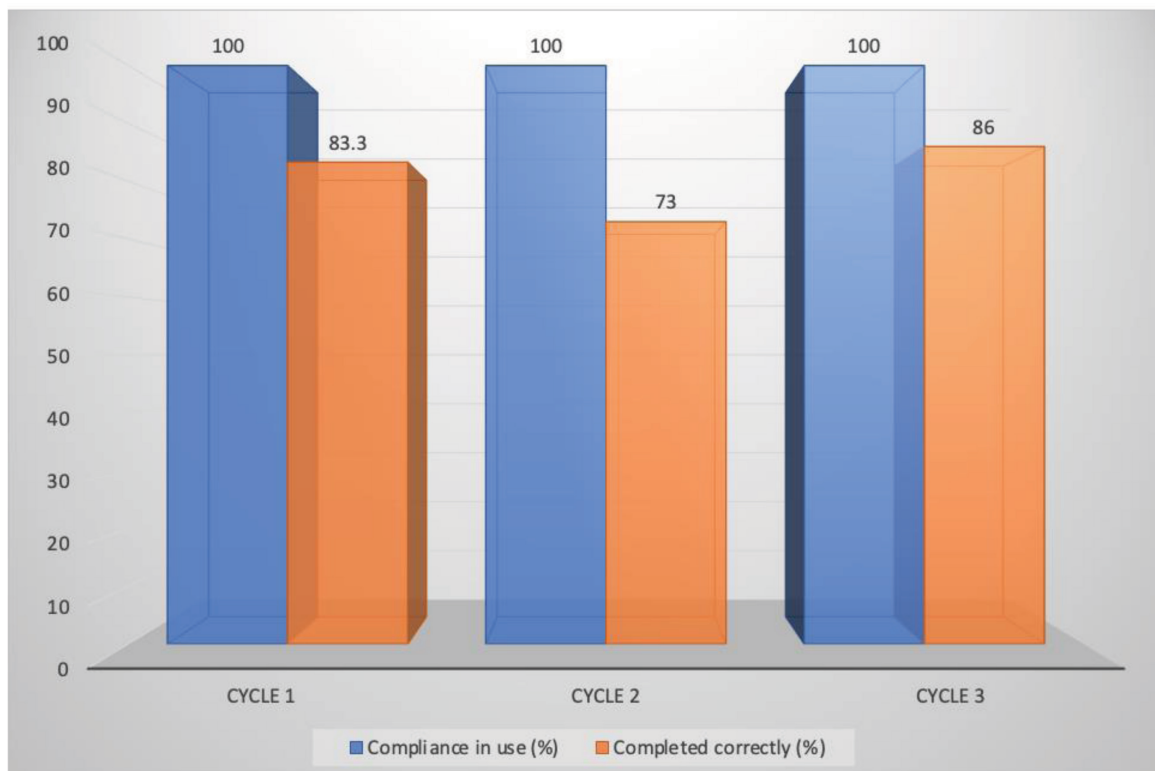


Fig 2. Compliance and completion during three audit cycles.

Using the Model for Improvement method, the project plan was divided into four phases: scoping, development, implementation and maintenance and monitoring. We collaborated with a LocSSIP 'champion' within pain medicine and identified key procedures which would require LocSSIPs.

To standardise safety checks UHB has developed five key areas or elements of safety pertaining to the operator, the patient, allergies, procedural and post-procedural care. Our safety standards were framed on NPSA guidance, safety alerts and standards of the WHO checklist but tailored for procedures within pain medicine. Following implementation, compliance was audited quarterly.

Results and discussion

LocSSIPs were developed and approved with all five key elements included (Fig 1).

Following a successful trial beginning in November 2020, the LocSSIPs were fully rolled out in January 2021. The first audit cycle in June 2021 showed compliance of 100% in the use of the LocSSIPs and correctly completed LocSSIPs was 83.3%. The second audit cycle in October showed compliance of 100%, but only 73% of those were correctly completed. Following further education on the use of LocSSIPs within the department, a third cycle audit of January 2022 showed an improvement of correctly completed LocSSIPs of 86% (Fig 2).

There has not been any reported NE or serious incidents in UHB since the introduction of the LocSSIPs.

The five key elements serve to ensure that at each point pre-procedure and post procedure integral safety checks are completed.

Continuous feedback from the team is encouraged to improve compliance in use and correctly completed LocSSIPs. The checklists were also updated to reflect recent patient safety alerts and to make them more user-friendly for staff.

Conclusion

There is overall good compliance, however, as with every quality improvement process, the work is longitudinal, and the troubleshooting process is still ongoing. Continuous auditing and monitoring of their use are required as well as the long-term effects on serious incidents to determine the true impact of LocSSIPs on patient safety in invasive procedures. ■

References

- 1 NHS Improvement. Never Events policy and framework. www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/never-events-policy-and-framework [Accessed 11 February 2022].
- 2 NHS Improvement. National safety standards for invasive procedures (NatSSIPs) www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/natssips [Accessed 11 February 2022].