

Equality, Good Relations and Human Rights Screening Template

*****Completed Screening Templates are public documents and will be posted on the Trust's website*****

See [Guidance Notes](#) for further background information on the relevant legislation and for help in answering the questions on this template (follow the links).

(1) Information about the Policy/Proposal

(1.1) Name of the policy/proposal

PROTOCOL ON THE PERFORMANCE OF EPIDURAL BLOOD PATCHES ON PATIENTS REFERRED FROM MEDICAL SPECIALTIES

(1.2) Is this a new, existing or revised policy/proposal?

NEW

(1.3) What is it trying to achieve (intended aims/outcomes)?

To provide some structure and governance to the practice of delivering epidural blood patches to medical patients. Medical Specialties and Anaesthetics are both involved in these cases and it helps clarify who is responsible for what parts of the process, and the correct way to do the processes.

(1.4) Are there any Section 75 categories (see list in 3.1) which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy/proposal? NONE



(1.4) Who owns and who implements the policy/proposal - where does it originate, for example DHSSPS, HSCB?

Owned and implemented by SE Trust

(1.6) Are there any factors that could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/proposal/decision? (Financial, legislative or other constraints?)

NONE

(1.7) Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy/proposal/decision could impact upon? (staff, service users, other public sector organisations, , trade unions, professional bodies, independent sector, voluntary and community groups etc)

The practice of delivering blood patches to medical patients already occurs and has done historically. This policy will not change that practice but just establishes governance around those practices. The methods described are already what is done.

It is relevant to medical specialties referring these patients and anaesthetists who perform the blood patches.

(1.8) Other policies with a bearing on this policy/proposal (for example regional policies) - what are they and who owns them?

I am not aware of similar policies that exist in other Trusts. To my knowledge, we are the only Trust who will have such a policy.

A policy exists in SE Trust already about the provision of blood patches to obstetric patients. (WACH Policy 60) This policy is separate and specific to medical patients.

(2) Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Details of evidence/information

This protocol is written out of experience and following discussions between various specialties.

This protocol does not discuss the indications or merits of doing an epidural blood patch for postural headache in medical patients – although there is some evidence available for this. I will not include the evidence as this is not the intention of this protocol.

This protocol only discusses how the blood patch should be referred to anaesthesia and performed.

(3) Needs, experiences and priorities

(3.1) Taking into account the information above what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the Section 75 categories and for both service users and staff.

Category	Needs, experiences and priorities	
	Service users	Staff
Gender	n/a	n/a
Age	n/a	n/a
Religion	n/a	n/a
Political	n/a	n/a

Opinion		
Marital Status	n/a	n/a
Dependent Status	n/a	n/a
Disability	n/a	n/a
Ethnicity	n/a	n/a
Sexual Orientation	n/a	n/a

(3.2) Provide details of how you have involved stakeholders, views of colleagues, service users and staff etc when screening this policy/proposal.

I have requested all relevant stakeholders to be a part of the scrutiny group. (Including: anaesthetics, medical physicians, neurologists, chronic pain specialists).

Prior to putting the protocol together I discussed the merits and contents with other anaesthetists and neurologists also.

(4) Screening Questions

You now have to assess whether the impact of the policy/proposal is major, minor or none. You will need to make an informed judgement based on the information you have gathered.

(4.1) What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	Details of policy/proposal impact		Level of impact? Minor/major/none
	Services Users	Staff	
Gender			None
Age			None
Religion			None

Political Opinion			None
Marital Status			None
Dependent Status			None
Disability			None
Ethnicity			None
Sexual Orientation			None

(4.2) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	Please provide details
Gender	n/a
Age	n/a
Religion	n/a
Political Opinion	n/a
Marital Status	n/a
Dependent Status	n/a
Disability	n/a
Ethnicity	n/a
Sexual Orientation	n/a

(4.3) To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none

Good relations category	Details of policy/proposal impact	Level of impact Minor/major/none
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

(4.4) Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	Please provide details
Religious belief	n/a
Political opinion	n/a
Racial group	n/a

(5) Consideration of Disability Duties

(5.1) How does the policy/proposal encourage disabled people to participate in public life and promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Not applicable

(6) Consideration of Human Rights

(6.1) Does the policy/proposal affect anyone's Human Rights?

Complete for each of the articles

Article	Positive impact	Negative impact = human right interfered with or restricted	Neutral impact
Article 2 – Right to life			X
Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment			X
Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude & forced or compulsory labour			X
Article 5 – Right to liberty & security of person			X
Article 6 – Right to a fair & public trial within a reasonable time			X
Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law & no punishment without law			X
Article 8 – Right to respect for private & family life, home and correspondence.			X
Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience & religion			X
Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression			X
Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly & association			X
Article 12 – Right to marry & found a family			X
Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights			X
1 st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property			X
1 st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education			X

Please note: If you have identified potential negative impact in relation to any of the Articles in the table above, speak to your line manager and/or Equality Unit. It may also be necessary to seek legal advice.

(6.2) Please outline any actions you will take to promote awareness of human rights and evidence that human rights have been taken into consideration in decision making processes.

(7) Screening Decision

(7.1) Given the answers in Section 4, how would you categorise the impacts of this policy/proposal?

Major impact	
Minor impact	
No impact	X

(7.2) Do you consider the policy/proposal needs to be subjected to ongoing screening

Yes	
No	X

(7.3) Do you think the policy/proposal should be subject to and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?

Yes	
No	X



(7.4) Please give reasons for your decision and detail any mitigation considered.

This Protocol discusses the process of a clinical intervention and does not discuss its indications or who or who would not benefit from it.

There will be no impact on the equality provision of any of the listed groups.

(8) Monitoring

Please detail how you will monitor the effect of the policy/proposal for equality of opportunity and good relations, disability duties and human rights?

N/A

Approved Lead Officer: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

Policy/proposal screened by: _____

Please forward completed schedule to:

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