

Frequently Asked Questions: Image Guidance When Administering Nerve Blocks for Adult Chronic Pain in Out-of-Hospital Premises

What practice standards, quality standards, and clinical practice guidelines are relevant in this space?

The Spine Intervention Society (SIS) sets out Safety Practices for Interventional Pain Procedures. Generally, SIS recommends the use of fluoroscopy for the following procedures:

- Epidural steroid injections
- Medial branch blocks
- Medial branch radiofrequency neurotomy
- Lateral atlanto-axial joint injections
- Sacroiliac joint injections
- Sacral lateral branch blocks.

For additional information and guidance, please see the Spine Intervention Society's [website](#).

Are epidurals considered to be nerve blocks under this Standard?

Yes. Epidural injections are considered to be nerve blocks and physicians must comply with the expectations in this Standard when administering them for chronic pain in OHPs.

What if CT and/or fluoroscopy is not part of my current practice?

If you are administering nerve blocks for adult chronic pain, there are likely to be instances where you will need to use CT and/or fluoroscopy. If you do not have the necessary qualifications to use CT and/or fluoroscopy as part of your practice but wish to do so, you will need to undertake CPSO's Change of Scope process to ensure you have the requisite knowledge, skill and judgement. More information on this process can be found [here](#).

If you do not wish to undertake a change of scope, and there is no other physician qualified to perform these procedures using CT or fluoroscopy within your premises, you will need to have a written process in place to refer patients to another qualified health care professional who can provide them.

What if practice standards, quality standards, and clinical practice guidelines indicate that fluoroscopy is appropriate for a specific block, but I don't think it is indicated for a specific patient?

You are required to practise in a manner that is consistent with this Standard, other relevant practice standards, quality standards, and clinical practice guidelines. Any departure from these standards will require strong and appropriate justification.