

CLINICAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (CPAG)

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB Position Statement: Epidurals for All Forms of Sciatica (Lumbar Radiculopathy)

Statement

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB (DDICB), in line with its principles for procedures of limited clinical value, has deemed that epidurals (local anaesthetic and/or steroid) for all forms of sciatica should not routinely be commissioned. This includes:

- Epidurals for acute and severe sciatica
- Epidurals for treatment or diagnostic indications
- Epidurals by any route, including interlaminar (lumbar epidural), transforaminal (nerve root injection) and caudal routes.

Rationale

NICE Clinical Guideline [CG59] states 'Consider epidural injections of local anaesthetic and steroid in people with acute and severe sciatica'. NICE have clarified that the word 'consider' when used in recommendations is based on there being limited evidence supporting the recommendation. See the [DDICB Clinical Policies webpage](#) section on NICE Guidance for more information.

These commissioning intentions will be reviewed periodically. This is to ensure affordability against other services commissioned by the ICB.

References

- NICE Guideline [NG59] Low back pain and sciatica in over 16s: assessment and management, published November 2016, updated December 2020, accessed 12/10/2022, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng59>
- NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries Sciatica, last revised in February 2022, accessed 12/10/2022, <https://cks.nice.org.uk/sciatica-lumbar-radiculopathy#!topicSummary>