

OUTPATIENT BLOOD PATCHES

REFERRAL PROCESS

- **Weekday** requests for epidural blood patches for outpatients will be referred to the outpatient pain clinic, Maine Medical Partners – Neurosurgery & Spine. The clinic has established procedures for outpatient admission and discharge, documentation, and appropriate facilities for storing belongings, waiting area for the escort, etc.
- The referral will be directed to Deb at Maine Medical Partners – Neurosurgery & Spine. She can be reached Monday through Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm. The contact phone number is: **885-4478**.
- The physician will evaluate the patient and perform the procedure that day if time is available. If not, a patient appointment will be made for the next day.
- **Weeknight or weekend** requests for outpatient blood patches will be performed at MMC when staffing/time allows. Given that most other surgical cases will take priority at these hours, lengthy wait times for the patient are likely. The suggested alternative is to discharge the patient home with the contact information for Maine Medical Partners – Neurosurgery & Spine (885-4478).
- Conservative care in the Emergency Department may consist of intravenous hydration and analgesics. Consideration should be given to the provision of low potency narcotics (hydrocodone or oxycodone preparations) for home use where appropriate. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications are discouraged.

FOLLOW-UP

- A follow-up call will be made the next day by the nurse from Maine Medical Partners – Neurosurgery & Spine.