Site Inspection: Dr. ______________________ at (          )
has ordered for you to receive pain medication via an epidural or intrathecal catheter at home.

Please contact your physician immediately if you note the following:

- Uncontrolled pain.
- Difficulty urinating.
- Difficulty moving bowels.
- Headache.
- Numbness or tingling at extremities.
- Nausea/Vomiting.
- Any new or changed neurological symptoms.
- Leaking of medication or cerebral spinal fluid from the catheter (both fluids are clear).
- Redness, swelling, or drainage at the catheter site.
- Fever and/or chills.
- Migration of catheter, i.e. the catheter has become dislodged and is moving out of your body. The home care nurse will measure and tell you how much catheter is visible from the insertion site as a point of reference.
- Your epidural catheter dressing becomes loose. You may call your home health nurse if your physician has ordered for a home health nurse to reinforce or change the dressing around the catheter.
- **DO NOT USE ALCOHOL** (or allow anyone else to use alcohol) around your epidural/intrathecal catheter!! Alcohol is irritating to the spinal column.
Home Health Guidelines:

- The Cadd® tubing will be attached & primed upon arrival to the patient’s home. However, the **PALL FILTER & VALVE WILL NEED TO BE ATTACHED & PRIMED IN THE HOME!!** The Pall filter & valve will need to be changed & primed with each bag/cassette change. Please refer to the Cadd® teaching sheet when ready to prime the filter & valve. The filter comes in a kit with the medication which will be in the patient’s delivery. Please remember also to change the valve (usually a SAFSITE® valve) on the patient’s catheter when the bag/cassette is changed (if it is not being changed in clinic).

- A Chartwell Clinician should let the home health RN know approximately how long each cassette/bag will last & if the valve &/or dressing change will be done in clinic. With any rate/pump programming changes that requires unlocking the pump, the home health RN needs to call Chartwell to reprogram the pump with a Chartwell RN.

- The home health nurse is to follow the physician’s orders and agency clinical policies and procedures for site care. CMW has a policy for site care that, if needed, can be faxed to the home care agency. However, it is generally accepted that the epidural/intrathecal dressing is NOT CHANGED. Do NOT reinforce the dressing, flush the epidural/intrathecal catheter, or manipulate the catheter UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ORDERED by the physician. At times, the physician will allow the home health RN to reinforce the dressing if needed. Usually, the dressing is changed at the clinic appointments.

- Measure the external length of the catheter and report any migration of the catheter to the physician immediately.

- See Chartwell’s Cadd® pump tubing change and pump re-set instructions when ready to change the cassette/bag on the pump.

- **Never** use scissors around the catheter site.

*Revised 7/09*