

What's New in the Patient Safety World

February 2025

New ASRA Pain Medicine Infection Control Guidelines

The American Society of Regional and Anesthesia Pain Medicine (ASRA) has issued new infection control guidelines for regional anesthesia and pain medicine ([Provenzano 2025](#)). They are consensus guidelines, but they are based on evidence-based infection control practices.

They provide guidelines in a variety of categories:

- Trigger point injections
- Musculoskeletal joint injections
- Sacroiliac joint injections
- Neuraxial and paravertebral injections in chronic pain management
- Facet procedures including medial branch blocks
- Radiofrequency ablations
- Needle technique recommendations for disc entry
- Vertebral augmentation
- Implanted or indwelling pain devices

The guidelines are very well researched and referenced. The full guideline document is 50 pages long, well beyond our ability to summarize all the recommendations. So many infection control guidelines focus heavily on inpatient and hospital practices. This ASRA guideline focuses on procedures that may be performed in a variety of venues. This is a very timely contribution.

References:

Provenzano DA, Hanes M, Hunt C, et al. ASRA Pain Medicine consensus practice infection control guidelines for regional anesthesia and pain medicine. *Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine* 2025; Published Online First: 20 January 2025
<https://rapm.bmj.com/content/early/2025/01/14/rapm-2024-105651>



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