

# Postnatal anaesthetic information – epidurals and spinal injections

**You have been given this leaflet as you have received an epidural or spinal injection during labour or in theatre.**

## Introduction

It is unusual for anyone to have problems after having had an epidural or a spinal injection, but you should contact your GP immediately if you develop any of the following symptoms in the next month:

- Numbness, weakness or any altered sensation in your legs.
- Any inability to pass urine or control your bowels.
- A new or different headache that is worse when sitting or standing up.
- Redness, discharge, oozing or pain from the epidural site on your back.
- New or worsening back pain.

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact your GP and tell them that you have recently had an epidural or spinal injection and show them this information sheet.

**Information for GP's or midwives:** You can contact the Obstetric Anaesthesia Service for advice on the following numbers:

- 24 hours per day: 0118 322 5111 bleep 142
- Or contact the Delivery Suite on 0118 322 7303 and ask to speak to the duty anaesthetist.

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

Consultant Anaesthetists, August 2007

Reviewed: April 2023

Next review due: April 2025

## Our Maternity Strategy and Vision

*'Working together with women, birthing people and families to offer compassionate, supportive care and informed choice; striving for equity and excellence in our maternity service.'*

You can read  
our maternity  
strategy here



Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent