

Inpatient Pain Service

Post Epidural Infusion/Injection Discharge Instructions

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Who is this leaflet for?

This is for anyone who has had an epidural as an inpatient.

Serious complications from epidural analgesia are rare (1 in 10,000). The epidural space is close to the spinal cord, a collection of pus or a blood clot can cause pressure on the spinal cord. In the unlikely event that there is pressure, it is crucial to diagnose and treat it as quickly as possible as any delay could cause long lasting damage. This leaflet tells you what to look for and what action to take if you think that you have a problem.

Assessment before the removal of epidural catheter

At the end of treatment with your epidural infusion, the team of doctors and nurses caring for you will examine you. This is to ensure that you do not have any residual numbness or weakness of your legs from the action of the drugs in your epidural infusion. They will ask you to move your legs and examine you, to make sure that the sensation in your legs is as it was before the operation. It is important to remember that some operations can cause altered sensation in the legs. Therefore, any changes experienced may be as a result of the surgery and not the epidural.

If you do have altered sensation when the epidural is removed, the attending team can discuss this with you.

If you experience any of the signs and symptoms listed below after your epidural infusion has been stopped while still an inpatient, ask the nurse in charge of the ward to **immediately** contact the Pain Team or the on call Anaesthetist.

If you have had any of the signs and symptoms listed below following discharge, it is important that you contact the on-call Anaesthetist at the hospital **immediately**

(Telephone 01223 217795 and ask the contact centre operator to bleep 156 0659) who will arrange for you to be seen in the Accident and Emergency Department.

Signs and symptoms

- Redness, pus, tenderness, or pain at the epidural site.
- Feeling generally unwell despite the fact that all seems to be well with the surgical wound.
- High temperature.
- Neck stiffness.
- Numbness and or weakness in your legs / inability to bear weight.
- Difficulty passing water / incontinence of faeces.

Further information, please contact: Pain Service on ext 3795 or bleep 152 365.

Additional information

The information in this leaflet is not intended to replace the advice given to you by your doctor or the pain service looking after you. If you require more information or have any questions, please speak to your doctor or the Acute Pain, Chronic Pain or Palliative Care Services who are looking after you. Your ward nurse will be able to put you in touch with them.

References

Royal College of Anaesthetists website, information for patients and relatives,
<http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/index.asp?PageID=1499>
http://connect/utilities/action/act_download.cfm?mediaid=401



We are currently working towards a smoke free site. Smoking is only permitted in the designated smoking areas.

For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169

Help with this leaflet:



If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio format, please ask the department to contact Patient Information: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Polish

Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formacie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem Informacji Pacjenta (Patient Information) pod numerem telefonu: 01223 216032 lub pod adresem patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Portuguese

Se precisar desta informação noutra língua, em impressão de letras grandes ou formato áudio, por favor peça ao departamento que contacte a secção de Informação aos Doentes (Patient Information) pelo telefone 01223 216032 ou através do e-mail patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Arabic

إذا كنت تود الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، بالأحرف الكبيرة أو بشكل شريط صوتي، يمكنك أن تطلب من القسم الاتصال بمعلومات المريض على الرقم: 01223216032 أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Cantonese

如您需要以另一語言版本、特大字體或錄音形式索取本資料，請要求部門聯絡病人諮詢服務：電話 01223 216032，電郵地址 patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Turkish

Eğer bu bilgileri başka bir dilde veya büyük baskılı veya sesli olarak isterseniz, lütfen bulunduğunuz bölümdeki görevlilere söyleyin Hasta Bilgilendirme servisini arasınlar: 01223 216032 veya patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Urdu

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی دیگر زبان میں، بڑے الفاظ میں یا آڈیو طریقہ سے درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی اس شعبہ سے پیشینٹ انفارمیشن سے ذیل کے ذریعہ رابطہ کریں: 01223 216032 یا patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk کی درخواست کریں:

Bengali

আপনি যদি এই তথ্য অন্য কোন ভাষায়, বড় অক্ষরে বা অডিও রেকর্ডিং পোতে চান তাহলে 'প্যাশেন্ট ইনফরমেশান' এর সঙ্গে 01223 216032 নম্বরে ফোন করে বা patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk ঠিকানায় ই-মেইল করে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য ডিপার্টমেন্টটিতে অনুরোধ জানান।

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