



# Bradford Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Name  
Hospital Number  
DOB  
Date Epidural Catheter/Spinal Inserted:

You had an epidural infusion or spinal anaesthetic whilst you were in hospital.

Epidural infusions and spinal anaesthetics can provide excellent pain relief.

Serious complications such as a collection of pus or a blood clot around the spinal cord can arise after you have been discharged from hospital, although this is rare.

Urgent treatment of these complications is necessary to prevent permanent injury.

If you experience any of the following symptoms (listed below) in the next few days or weeks, go to the Emergency Department immediately.

Bring this letter with you and ask to see the anaesthetist on-call.

## **Symptoms to be concerned about after you have had an epidural/spinal anaesthetic**

- Redness, pus, tenderness or pain at the epidural /spinal site
- High temperature, neck stiffness
- Feeling generally unwell despite the fact that all seems well with the surgical wound
- New severe back pain
- New weakness, increasing numbness or new loss of sensation in your legs
- New loss of bladder or bowel control
- Continuous headache, worse on standing, not relieved by simple pain relief.

If you have any concerns about your epidural/spinal anaesthetic after you have been discharged from hospital, telephone 01274 542200 and ask to speak to the acute on-call anaesthetist (via switchboard). There is an anaesthetist on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Following discharge from maternity, please contact the labour ward on extension 4515 and ask to speak to the obstetric anaesthetist on duty. This number is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

*If you need this information in another format or language, please ask a member of staff.*

Anaesthetic Department  
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