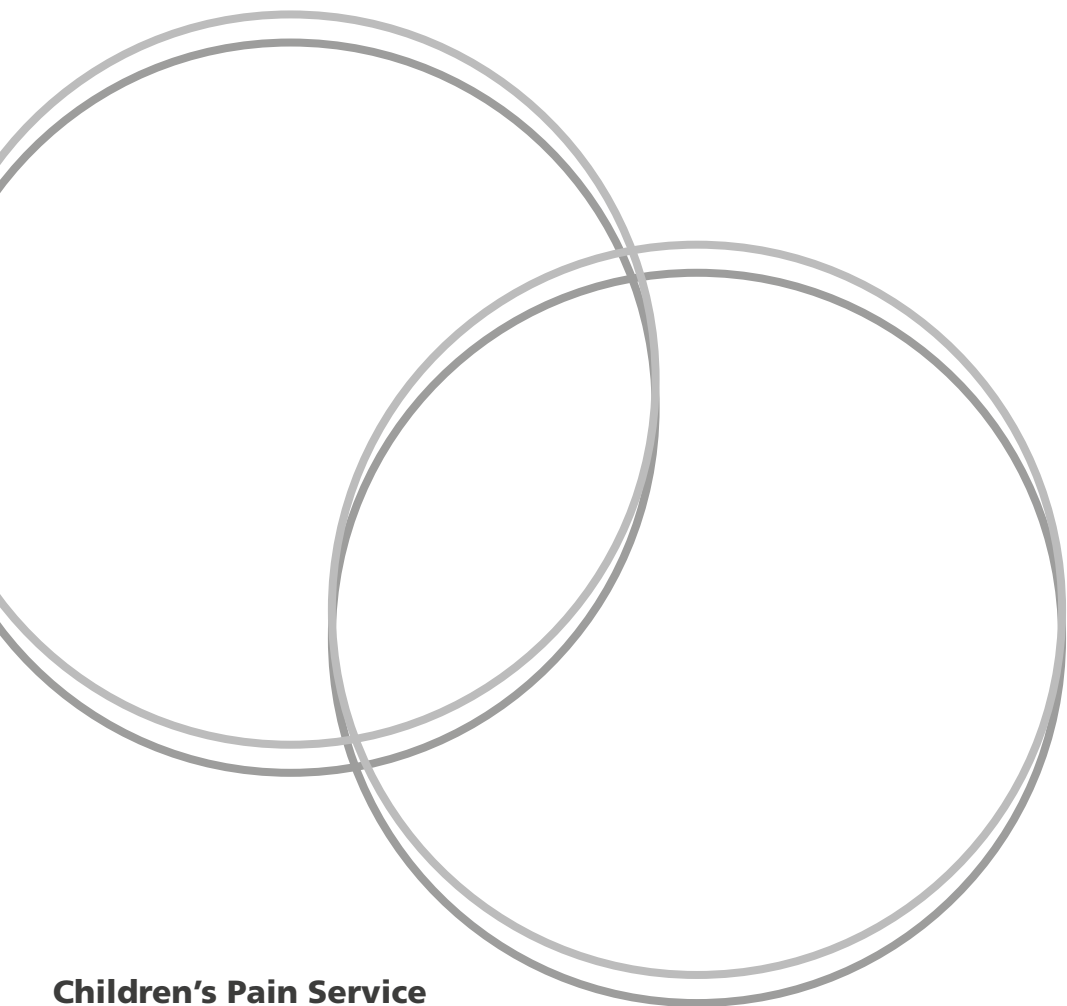


Signs to look out for after an epidural infusion for pain relief

Information for parents and carers



Signs to look out for after an epidural for pain relief

The epidural was removed on

Your child has had an epidural infusion for pain relief after their operation.

Although it is very unusual for anyone to have any problems after an epidural infusion for pain relief, there are a few serious complications that can develop. These are classed as rare; affecting only 1 in 10,000 people.

The epidural space where the epidural infusion is given is close to the spinal cord. If a collection of pus (an abscess) or blood clot was to form in this area it could cause pressure on the spinal cord. It is very important to diagnose and treat these problems as quickly as possible, to prevent long-lasting damage.

Over the next month you need to watch your child for any of the signs listed below:

- new or worsening back pain
- high temperature or neck stiffness
- numbness, weakness or any change to sensation in their legs
- not being able to pass urine or control their bowels
- a new or different headache, which is worse when sitting or standing up
- redness, tenderness and discharge from the epidural site on your child's back.

If you think your child has any of the signs listed above, please take them to your nearest accident and emergency department (A&E) immediately.

Tell the doctor that they have recently had an epidural.

For non-urgent advice

If any medical staff treating your child have questions about the treatment we have given, they can contact us at the Inpatient Service.

John Radcliffe Hospital

Telephone: **01865 572 087** or **0300 304 7777**
or ask to Bleep **1400** or **1362**

Churchill Hospital

Telephone: **01865 225 403** or **0300 304 7777**
or ask to Bleep **4375**

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



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