

After Your Epidural

Occasionally some complications can occur after having an epidural (spinal or combination of both). It is important that you **URGENTLY** report any concerns to staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women (KEMH) or your general practitioner, informing them of your recent epidural.

You need to contact us when you experience any of the following:

- Your back pain is getting worse rather than better.
 - It is well known that some women experience back pain throughout their pregnancy or after having a baby.
 - Pain related to an epidural is different as it comes from the place where the epidural needle is put into the back.
 - A small amount of tenderness is expected in this area but it should not interfere with your normal activity.
 - Most women feel like they have a bruise at the spot where the needle went in.
 - If at any time you feel the pain is becoming worse, you should contact KEMH as soon as possible.
- Any redness or swelling develops around the site where the epidural needle was put into your back.
- Any discharge, or pus in the area where the epidural needle was put into your back.
- Any change in sensation, numbness, pain or pins and needles in your legs or feet that you did not notice while you were in hospital.
- Any backache, headache or neck stiffness that is:
 - accompanied by a fever,
 - worse when you sit or stand up, or
 - does not go away.

Contact details

If you have any concerns about your epidural, call the Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine at KEMH on (08) 9340 2222 and ask for pager number 3228, available 24 hours.

Compiled by: Anaesthetic Department
Web site: <http://wchs.health.wa.gov.au>

Produced by: Women's and Children's Health Service
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WCHS 0309

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