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**SUNSHINE COAST**  
ANAESTHETIC GROUP

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## INFORMATION ABOUT EPIDURAL AND SPINALS FOR LABOUR OR CAESARIAN SECTION

Epidurals have been used for over 40 years for pain in labour and for caesarians with an excellent safety record when given by a Specialist Anaesthetist. They are very effective when other forms of analgesia become inadequate. We hope that you will not require our services but a number of women do require Epidurals or Spinals for pain relief in labour or for an emergency Caesarian Section. It is difficult to discuss potential complications during intense labour. To give informed consent you will need to understand the information on this sheet, sign **both sides** of it, and bring it with you to the hospital to be attached to your records. ***Due to Medico-legal restrictions we will be unable to provide an Epidural if this is not signed prior to labour commencing.*** Please remember that the vast majority of Epidurals are very effective and free of complications, however the following can occur.

*Please phone our rooms if you have any questions.*

### POSSIBLE SHORT TERM COMPLICATIONS

- Pain on insertion.
- Injection of local anaesthetic into blood stream with possible fits and/or loss of consciousness or cardiac arrest.
- Injection of local anaesthetic into spinal fluid with possible large block and the need for an immediate general anaesthetic.
- Decrease in blood pressure – often slight but occasionally large.
- Headache – This may require prolonged bed rest or occasionally another special epidural.
- Allergic reactions (minor or major).

### POSSIBLE LONG TERM COMPLICATIONS

- Chronic (lasting) back pain.
- Chronic (lasting) headache.
- Blood clots around spinal cord. This may require surgery and may cause paraplegia.
- Infection around spinal cord. This may require surgery and may cause paraplegia.
- Nerve damage with possible weakness, numbness or tingling.
- Damage to the blood supply to the spinal cord, which can possibly cause paraplegia.

Your anaesthetist has been trained in the speciality and is experienced in Epidurals and Spinals and will provide the best available treatment. Remember that Epidurals are very effective and safe but all the above complications can and have happened.

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I have read and understand the risks listed on this information sheet and I accept these risks if I request an Epidural during labour or for Caesarian Section.

.....  
Sign and date here.

Due Date .....

Name.....

Address.....

DOB.....

PLEASE TURN OVER

**INFORMATION ABOUT FEES FOR EPIDURALS IN LABOUR**

- If you require an epidural in labour you will receive an account in the mail from the anaesthetist who provides this service for you. This account is separate from the fees charged by the hospital.
- The AMA suggested fees for epidural services are up to
  - \$1,050 for in-hours services
  - \$1,550 for after-hours services
- Most anaesthetists charge substantially less than the AMA suggested fee but the fee will vary between individual anaesthetists.
- You are responsible for settling your account in a timely manner. You should refer to your health fund for information as to what rebates they offer. Generally you should send any paperwork directly to the health fund and not to Medicare in order to receive the highest refund.

I confirm that I have read and understood the above information.

Name:.....Signature:.....

<b>SEPARATE FROM WHITE INFORMATION SHEET AND BRING THIS GREEN SHEET TO HOSPITAL WITH YOU</b>
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<b>Andrew Beck</b>	<b>David Bertholini</b>	<b>Rob Boeke</b>	<b>Nick Courtney</b>
<b>Alan Cousins</b>	<b>James Craig</b>	<b>Mark Downing</b>	<b>Darren Emerick</b>
<b>Owain Evans</b>	<b>Paul Frank</b>	<b>Martin Frouws</b>	<b>Guy Godsall</b>
<b>Chris Graves</b>	<b>Peter Harlow</b>	<b>Dean Haydon</b>	<b>Nick Hughes</b>
<b>Nick Hutton</b>	<b>Daryll Koch</b>	<b>Brian Lewer</b>	<b>Steve McCready</b>
<b>Neil McKinley</b>	<b>Alan Millard</b>	<b>Steve Mitchell</b>	<b>John Poh</b>
<b>Peter Ridge</b>	<b>Peter Watt</b>	<b>Rob Whitburn</b>	<b>John Whittle</b>

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