



Implementing a Postnatal Anaesthetic Review Sticker in Altnagelvin Hospital

Northern Ireland Obstetric
Anaesthetic Network

Dr A Murray (CT2), Dr Cherian-McIvor (Consultant Anaesthetist), Western Health and Social Care Trust

Introduction

The RCOA updated their guidelines for the Provision of Anaesthesia Services for an Obstetric Population in 2024. Detailed in the guidelines is the recommendation that all women who have received an anaesthetic intervention for labour and/ or delivery should be reviewed postnatally (1).

The postnatal review gives women an opportunity to ask any further questions about the anaesthetic care they received during labour and delivery, and to address any concerns raised. It is essential to document the review to facilitate safe discharge planning.

Aims

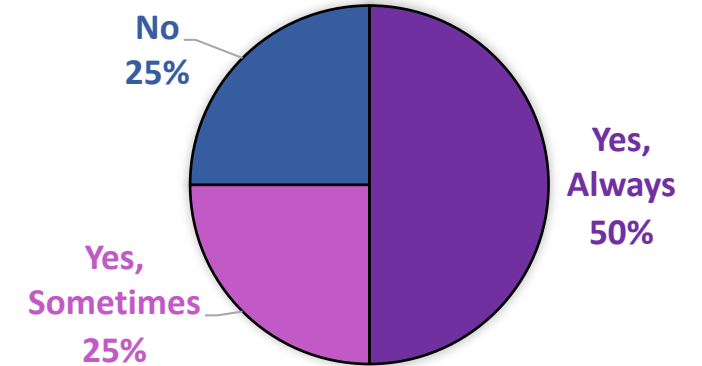
1. To improve the quality of the postnatal anaesthetic review so that **100% of patients are reviewed**
2. To improve **documentation** of review to facilitate safe discharge.

Methods

Created a baseline survey to find out about current postnatal anaesthetic review practice in Altnagelvin Hospital. By reviewing practice in other regions and gaining feedback from colleagues in Altnagelvin, I created a structured sticker for the notes to standardise the postnatal review.

Post-Natal Anaesthetic Review	
Anaesthetic Procedure: _____	Date of Procedure: _____
Obstetric Procedure: _____	
Complications:	
Headache	yes / no
Paraesthesia	yes / no
Motor Deficit	yes / no
If yes, please circle the pathway commenced: Headache / Delayed Neurological Recovery	
Is postnatal analgesia adequate?	yes / no
Has patient passed urine?	yes / no
Follow up:	
No further Anaesthetic input required	<input type="checkbox"/>
If further Anaesthetic review required, anaesthetist will arrange	
Date/time: _____	Name: _____
Grade: _____	Signed: _____

Do You Write in the Patient's Notes?



Discussion

This sticker is a simple method implemented to aid documentation, leading to safe discharge and increased patient safety following their anaesthetic intervention. Future work could include aiming to standardise the documentation sticker across the region.

The next step for this project is creating pathways for headache and delayed neurological recovery following anaesthetic intervention. This work is ongoing.

Results

Baseline survey showed that **25% staff completing the survey do not routinely document the postnatal anaesthetic review** in the notes.

100% staff felt a sticker would improve documentation

Repeat survey is ongoing to find out if documentation has been improved by use of the sticker.

References: (1) <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/gpas/chapter-9#ref-25>