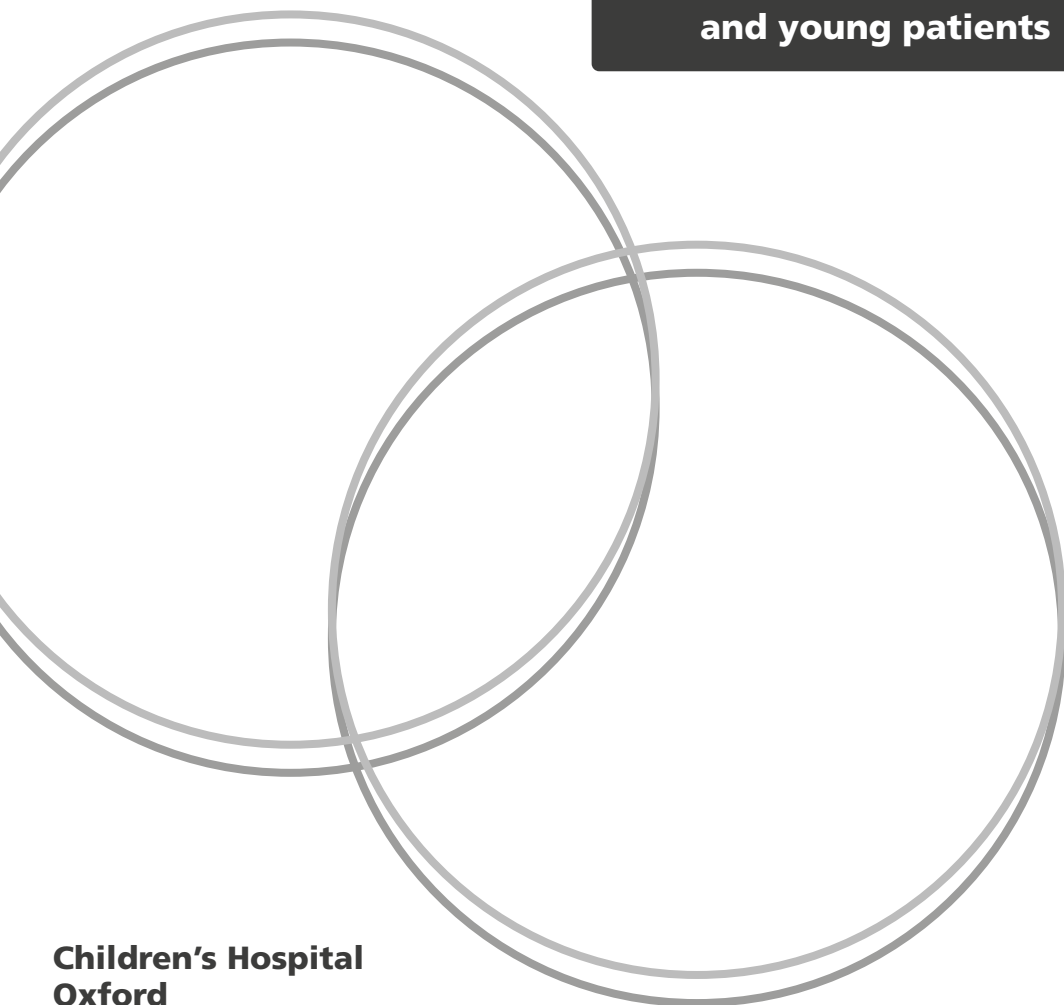




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Patient Controlled Epidural Analgesia (PCEA)

Information for children
and young patients



Children's Hospital
Oxford

Your anaesthetist has decided to give you Patient Controlled Epidural Analgesia (PCEA) after your operation, to help with any pain you might have.

What is PCEA?

During your operation your anaesthetist will place a small plastic tube into the epidural space in your back (the space around your spinal cord). A PCEA pump will be connected to this tube.

An epidural infusion is liquid medication, which is put into the epidural space through the epidural catheter to numb the nerves. This blocks the nerve messages, so the brain doesn't register any pain.

You can push the button on the handset attached to the PCEA pump to give yourself an extra dose of pain relieving medicine, if you need it.

If you are in pain, press the button. It takes about 15 minutes for the pain relieving medicine to work. If you are still in pain after 30 minutes, you can press the button again. You can carry on pressing the button every 30 minutes until your pain feels better.

You are the only person who knows when you have pain or feel sore, so only you are allowed to press the PCEA button.

Your nurse may also remind you to press the button before activities which may cause pain, such as moving or coughing.

The PCEA is carefully programmed by the anaesthetist to give you a measured amount of pain relieving medicine.

Don't worry. You cannot give yourself too much pain relieving medicine by pressing the button too often.

The ward nurse will monitor you and the Pain Management team will assess you.

Please speak to your anaesthetist or nurse if you have any questions.

Also available, information about Epidural for pain relief after surgery for parents and carers.

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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