

# After your epidural or spinal injection



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Information for patients, their family and carers

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## What is an epidural or spinal injection?

During your surgery you had a needle placed in your back and then removed. This was to give you medicines to help relieve your pain. We call this a spinal or epidural injection. These injections are generally safe, but there are rare complications or problems.

## What do I need to look out for?

For up to 8 weeks following your injection, look out for these symptoms:

- A temperature (above 38.0 degrees Celsius)
- A severe headache that gives you nausea or causes you to vomit
- If your eyes feel sensitive to light
- If your neck feels stiff
- Difficulty moving or feeling your legs
- If you cannot pass or control your urine
- If you cannot control your bowel motions
- Unusual, severe or worsening back pain
- Redness, swelling or pus at the injection site in your back
- Changes to your hearing.

## What should I do if these symptoms occur?

If these symptoms occur you need to get **medical help straight away**.

If you have any of the symptoms and you are in hospital, please let your doctor or nurse know immediately.

If you have any of the symptoms (or any other concerns) and you are at home, go straight to your nearest hospital emergency department. Tell the doctor that you have recently had a spinal or epidural injection whilst in hospital.

