

Obstetric anaesthesia update

Dr Emily Buddicom

Here's a brief overview of the recent changes and challenges we've been navigating:

1. Enhanced Recovery

Since 2014, we've implemented Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols to expedite patient recovery and reduce hospital stays. 10 years down the track and it's now time to look at "marginal gains".

2. NRFit Neuraxial Kits

Introduced in June 2021, NRFit neuraxial kits have proven valuable despite a learning curve. Their benefits in safety and efficiency are compelling, making them a worthwhile investment.

<https://libguides.anzca.edu.au/safety/neuralconnectorchangeover>

3. Support Persons in Theatre

One of our significant challenges is accommodating support persons during caesarean sections. Our policy allows only one support person in the theatre due to space constraints. We address special cases, such as diverse family structures and surrogacy, on an individual basis, using an adjacent room with a viewing window for additional support people.

2. Sip to Send

Our unit has introduced the "Sip to Send" initiative, allowing women awaiting elective caesarean sections to sip water until their surgery time. This practice improves patient comfort and is expected to be adopted more widely in adult surgeries.

[https://www.anzca.edu.au/getattachment/897f5bf5-b665-4c99-a56f-e72678f19f7e/PG07\(A\)-Appendix-1-%E2%80%93-Fasting-guideline](https://www.anzca.edu.au/getattachment/897f5bf5-b665-4c99-a56f-e72678f19f7e/PG07(A)-Appendix-1-%E2%80%93-Fasting-guideline)

3. Sustainability

Sustainability remains a priority. We continue our syringe recycling program despite contamination issues and are exploring options to reduce nitrous oxide wastage, with potential disconnection from piped systems in theatres.

<https://libguides.anzca.edu.au/enviro/no2>

<https://greentheatres.online/a-model-for-facility-nitrous-leak-reduction/>

4. BadgerNet

BadgerNet, our maternity care software, offers comprehensive patient note access but lacks integration with other hospital systems, posing some operational challenges.