

**easternhealth**  
**Anaesthetic REFERRAL pathway for maternity patients**

**Processes:** Any patient or family requesting an anaesthetic review ante-natally can be referred. Please note the reason for the request on the referral form.

Antenatal patients with **high risk** conditions will require face-to-face review with an anaesthetist.

Patients with **moderate risk** conditions can have a chart review by an anaesthetist.

The anaesthetist may then determine that the patient will need a face-to-face review, or elect to telephone the patient for further information.

The anaesthetic team should be notified when patients with high risk conditions are in labour. This may either be raised at the morning obstetric handover meeting, where an anaesthetic representative will be present, or via the anaesthetic in charge phone (0427 149 373).

<b>Definitions</b>					
Antenatal Face to Face review		PAC			
Chart review		CR			
Notification on admission to birth suite		OA			
<b>Inclusion criteria</b>					
<b>Anaesthetic considerations</b> Previous difficult or failed intubation Anaesthesia related anaphylaxis Suxamethonium apnoea Malignant hyperthermia  Complications following previous central neuraxial block Major complications following general anaesthesia	PAC + OA CR CR CR + OA  PAC + OA  CR	<b>Medical Indications</b> <i>Cardiovascular</i> CHD; (including corrected) Valvular disease Arrhythmias including any implanted devices (PPM or AICD) Ischaemic Heart Disease Cardiomyopathy	PAC + OA PAC + OA PAC + OA PAC + OA		
<b>Respiratory</b> Pulmonary Hypertension Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis COAD Severe asthma	PAC + OA PAC + OA PAC + OA CR CR	<b>Musculoskeletal/connective tissue disorders</b> Previous lumbar spine surgery Rheumatoid arthritis Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Ankylosing Spondylitis	CR CR CR CR		
<b>Neurological</b> Myasthenia Gravis Spinal cord injury Arnold Chiari malformation Cerebral aneurysms Multiple Sclerosis Difficulty in obtaining informed consent eg. Intellectual disability Spina Bifida	PAC + OA CR CR CR PAC + OA PAC + OA	<b>Haematological</b> Declines blood products eg. Jehovah's Witness Thrombocytopenia; (platelets < 100) Patients on anticoagulants or antiplatelet drugs (for any reason) Haemophilia Von Willebrand's disease	PAC + OA CR CR PAC + OA CR		
<b>Pain, substance abuse and psychiatric conditions</b> Opioid dependence for chronic pain Opioid substitution therapy; methadone or buprenorphine Drug abuse of any sort	PAC PAC PAC	<b>Obesity</b> BMI $\geq$ 35 BMI $\geq$ 50 <b>Obstetric considerations</b> Abnormal placentation: placenta accreta, increta or percreta Severe preeclampsia including HELLP	OA PAC + OA  PAC + OA  OA		
For patients who do not meet any of the above criteria, any midwife or obstetric doctor can make an anaesthetic referral. The anaesthetist will review the indication for the referral and determine the next step					
<b>Exclusion Criteria</b>					
<b>If a woman has had an anaesthetic review in a previous pregnancy and there has been no change to the underlying condition, no referral is required.</b>					