

Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022

**A message to patients about pain management during your upcoming delivery**

As you may have heard, there is a global shortage of epidural catheters, which are used to provide pain medication during labour and delivery.

We are writing to provide you with an update and let you know that we’re working with your care provider to ensure you have access to pain management support during childbirth.

At this time, the shortage has not impacted patients at Niagara Health; however, we are taking steps to manage the supply. We are working closely with our healthcare partners to conserve and share resources. Our procurement team is working to identify alternative vendors and we are part of a shared provincial and Health Canada dialogue to monitor inventory and identify options.

Finally, our Women’s and Babies and Anesthesia teams have been working together to identify practice options going forward.

Providing you and your baby safe, quality healthcare is our priority. We will work with patients and their care providers to identify those with high-priority needs.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak with your healthcare provider directly. We are also available to address any further questions.

These remain difficult times. We are very sorry for any inconveniences this may cause you and your loved ones. Hospitals across Ontario are facing similar pressures, and we will continue to respond to these challenges. We appreciate your support and understanding.

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