

Pain Relief in Labour: Video transcript

Professionals Involved – Anaesthetists

Hello. My name is Dr. Laura Willington and I am a consultant anaesthetist at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Anaesthetists are doctors who have done additional specialist medical training in anaesthesia and pain management.

While you may think that anaesthetists only have a role making patients safe for and comfortable after surgery they have a much larger role.

For example, an Anaesthetist may be asked to be involved in providing pain relief or assist with other aspects of care during labour. Anaesthetists insert and manage epidurals and prescribe fentanyl patient controlled analgesia to help women during the birth.

There is a weekly Clinic where anaesthetists see selected woman before her expected due date.

These women have been identified by midwives or obstetricians as having a medical problem or obstetric issue that may make providing pain relief during labour more complex.

A record of this discussion is placed in the woman's hospital notes ready for admission when in labour.

The Women's and Children's Hospital has at least one anaesthetist in the hospital at all times.

This means that an anaesthetist is usually available on the delivery suite to discuss the different options for pain relief or answer any questions even after labour has commenced.

The Women's and Children's Hospital is a hospital which provides specialist training for the specialists of the future.

Anaesthetic care is provided by both specialist anaesthetists and registrars. An anaesthetic registrar is a qualified doctor who is training in anaesthesia and is supervised by a specialist anaesthetist.

For more information about specialist anaesthetists please click on the link under 'Further Information.'

