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| **Performance Criteria – Drug order** | |
| * Adheres to “6 rights” | |
| * Confirms first dose given by anaesthetist | |
| * Preparation of solution with a second RN/Midwife competent in epidural management | |
| * Aware of the time of previous pain relief (including previous spinal/epidural pain relief) | |
| * How long would it be expected for the drug to be effective | |
| **Performance Criteria – Preparation** | |
| * Confirm consent and anaesthetist available | |
| * IV access available | |
| * Resuscitation equipment available | |
| * Base line observations completed | |
| * Check the written orders with the woman’s identification * (x2 midwives and/or Registered Nurses) | |
| * Check woman voided and bladder function if there is no IDC in situ | |
| * Epidural site assessed | |
| **Performance Criteria – Procedure** | |
| * Aseptic technique maintained throughout procedure | |
| * Aware why bacteriostatic filter in situ | |
| * Aware why alcohol swabs not used | |
| * Removes cap and retains for later use | |
| **Bolus top up** | **Commencing infusion** |
| * Positions woman | * Document volume in reservoir on epidural chart |
| * Aspirates to note presence of blood or CSF | * Connect epidural line and start pump |
| * Administered in 2-3 ml increments over 3-5 mins | * Confirm pump is running |
| * Maintains verbal communication | * Confirm the self-administering device is working |
| * Replaces cap to filter | * Explains use of self-administering device to woman |
| * Stops administration of drug (bolus/infusion) at first sign of complication | |
| * Observations completed | |
| * Dermatomes tested if local anaesthetic has been used | |
| * Documentation completed | |
| * Checks efficacy of pain relief and notifies anaesthetist or APS if pain relief inadequate | |
| * In the event of a complication knows the use of: Ephedrine, Naloxone, Midazolam, IV Lipid | |