



QR Codes: Bridging the language barrier on epidural consent.

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Introduction

- Irish maternity hospitals cater for women from many different nationalities many of whom do not speak English.
- it is imperative that we provide these women with informed consent in their own languages.
- Reports from MBRRACE repeatedly highlight differences in maternal mortality rates amongst women from non-white backgrounds compared to white women, and emphasis the need for a continued focus on action to address these disparities.
- In this QI project, we rolled out an Epidural Information Leaflet which contained a series of Quick Response (QR) codes epidural information and consent in multiple languages.

Methods

The twenty most commonly spoken languages in the Rotunda population were sourced via the electronic patient record database. Information leaflets for the top fifteen languages were sourced on www.labourpains.com¹. An individual QR code was generated for each information leaflet via www.qrcode-monkey.com. These Epidural Information Leaflets were distributed throughout the delivery suite, prenatal ward, and the anaesthesia pre-operative assessment clinic. A survey was generated using www.surveymonkey.com and distributed to the midwives working on the delivery suite.

EPIDURAL INFORMATION SHEET TRANSLATIONS



ENGLISH		Scan the QR code with your mobile phone camera. Read the information about epidurals carefully. Speak to your anaesthetist if you have questions. A translator can be contacted if needed.
GAEILGE Irish		Scan an cód QR le ceamara do ghuthán póca. Léigh an t-eolas faoi eipidiúir go cúramach. Labhair le d'ainéistéiseach má tá ceisteanna agat. Is féidir dul i dteagmháil le haistritheoir más gá.
ROMÂNĂ Romanian		Scanati codul QR cu camera telefonului mobil. Cititi cu atentie informatiile despre epidurale. Discutati cu anestezistul daca aveti intrebari. Un traducator poate fi contactat daca este necesar.
PORTUGUÊS Portuguese		Digitalize o código QR com a câmara do seu celular. Leia atentamente as informações sobre epidurais. Fale com o seu anestesta se tiver dúvidas. Um tradutor pode ser contatado se necessário.
POLSKIE Polish		Zeskanuj kod QR aparatem w telefonie komórkowym. Przeczytaj uważnie informacje o znieczuleniu zewnątrzoponowym. Porozmawiaj ze swoim anestezjologiem, jeśli masz pytania. W razie potrzeby można skontaktować się z tłumaczem.
LIETUVIS Lithuanian		Nuskaitykite QR kodą savo mobilijojo telefono kamera. Atidžiai perskaitykite informaciją apie epidūrą. Jei turite klausimų, pasitarkite su savo anestezijologu. Jei reikia, galima susisiekti su vertėju.

Results

The post-roll out survey showed the Epidural Information Leaflets were a success on the delivery suite. There were 28 responses amongst the delivery midwifery team, a response rate of 62%. 92% found the leaflets useful for patients for whom English wasn't their first language.

- 100% found the QR codes easy to use.
- 94% felt the leaflets benefitted the patient.
- 94% felt the sheet made it easier for patients in whom English is not their first language to understand the epidural procedure.
- 90% were happy to continue using the Epidural Information Leaflets.

Conclusion

While the complexity of our work increases, so too does the diversity of our patient population. We must strive to provide equitable information to all patients groups. Here we have shown a quick, easy, reproducible and environmentally sustainable way to provide information to patients regarding epidurals².

References:

- [1] https://www.labourpains.com/International_Translations
- [2] Principles of environmentally-sustainable anaesthesia: a global consensus statement from the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists. DOI: 10.1111/anae.15598