

National survey on training and assessment of competency of midwives managing epidurals



The Team

Dr. Rosie Lewis >
Anaesthetics ST5

< **Dr. Claire Joannides**
Consultant Anaesthetist

Dr. Hilary Swales >
Consultant Anaesthetist

< **University Hospitals**
Southampton

Overview

21% of all women in labour in the UK receive epidurals

OAA / AAGBI Guidelines for Obstetric Anaesthetic Services, 2013:

“Midwives should have been trained and deemed competent to do so by a local mechanism. Competence to care for women with epidural analgesia should be re-certified annually as a minimum.”

RCOA Obstetric Anaesthesia Services, 2015:

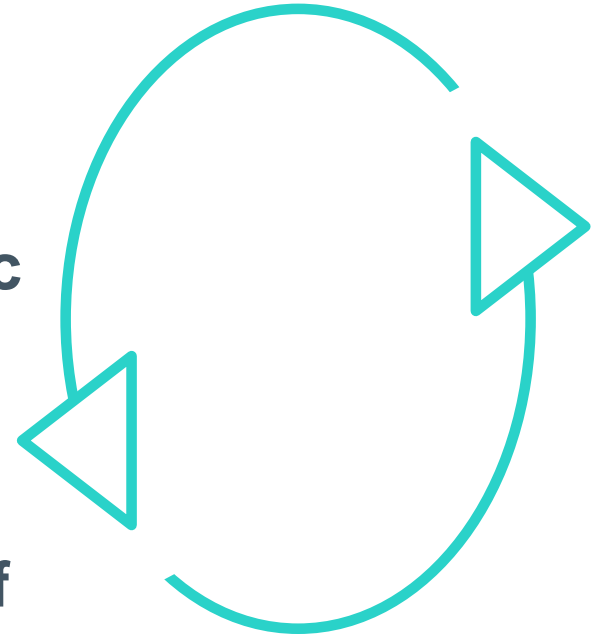
“The midwife should regularly care for parturients with regional analgesia and receive regular updates in training.”

250 midwives at Southampton – challenge to meet training requirements

Method

OAA approved national survey (158) sent to 200 UK lead Obstetric Anaesthetists, May 2015

Questions about epidural training and assessment of competence of midwives managing epidurals



Survey Results

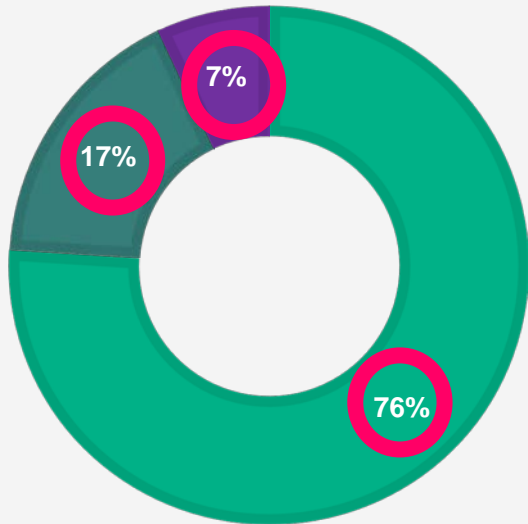
○ Response rate 60% (n=120)

Epidural Training



Epidural Update Training

Data Results:

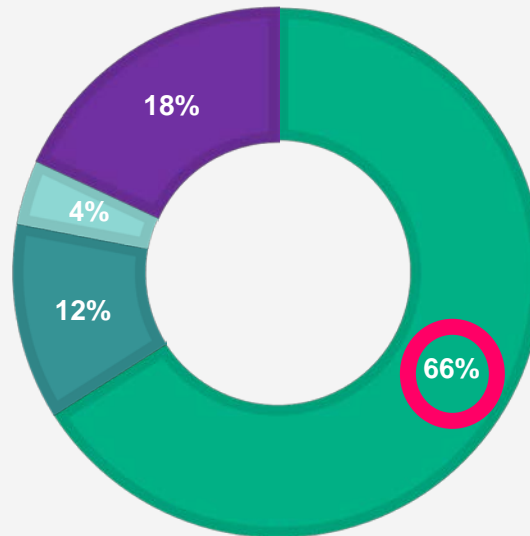


Regular training	91 (76%)
No regular training	20 (17%)
Don't know	8 (7%)



Frequency of Training

Data Results:



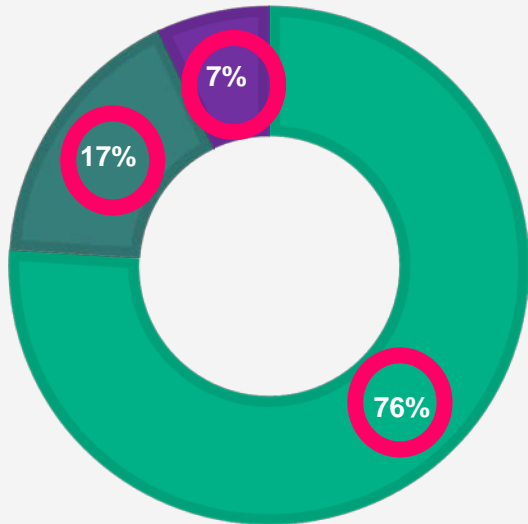
Every year	60 (66%)
Every 2 years	11 (12%)
Every 3 – 5 years	4 (4%)
Don't know	16 (18%)

Epidural Training



Epidural Update Training

Data Results:

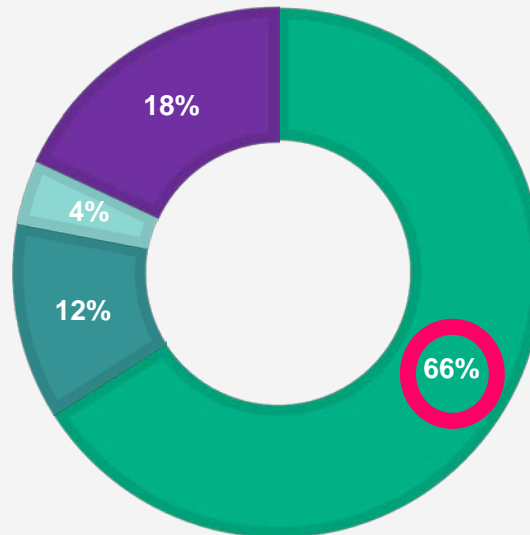


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Frequency of Training

Data Results:



Every year	60 (66%)
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Delivery:



2/3



1/4



1/10



8%



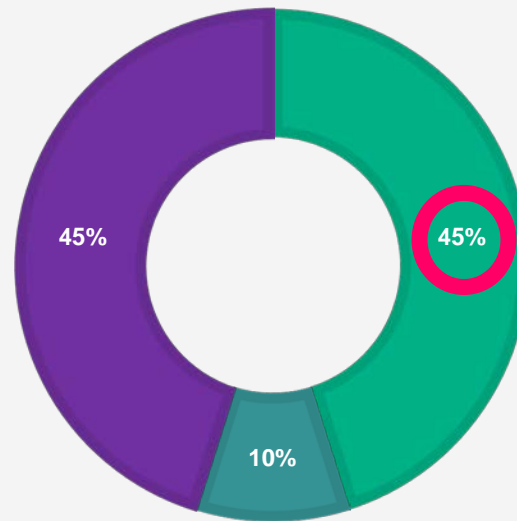
9%

Midwifery Student Training



Midwifery Student Training

Data Results:



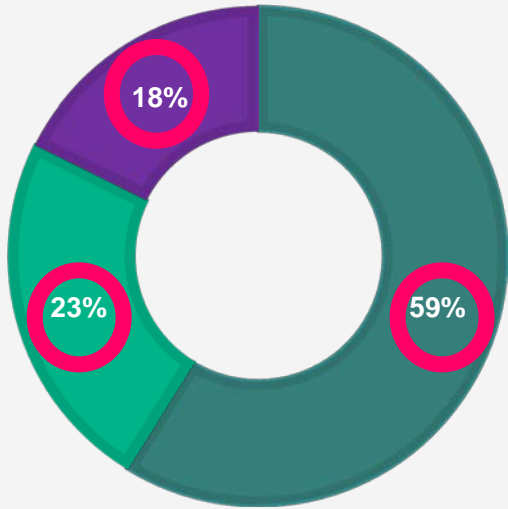
Formal training	51 (45%)
No formal training	11 (10%)
Don't know	51 (45%)

Competency Assessment



Initial Competency Assessment

Data Results:



Initial competency assessment **70 (59%)**

No initial competency assessment **28 (23%)**

Don't know **21 (18%)**

Delivery:



2/3



1/3



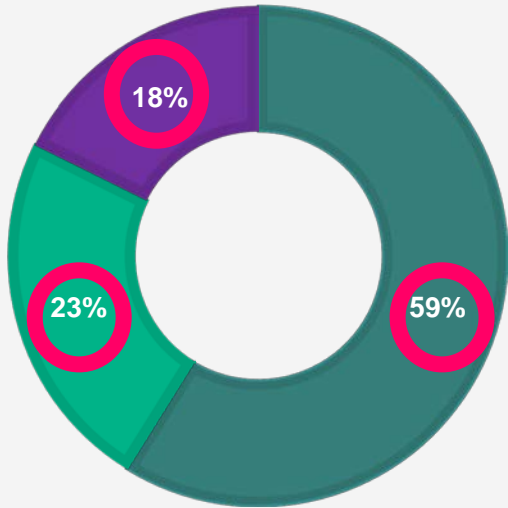
6 units

Competency Assessment



Initial Competency Assessment

Data Results:



Initial competency assessment	70 (59%)
No initial competency assessment	28 (23%)
Don't know	21 (18%)

Hewlett-Packard
Enterprise

Delivery:



2/3



1/3

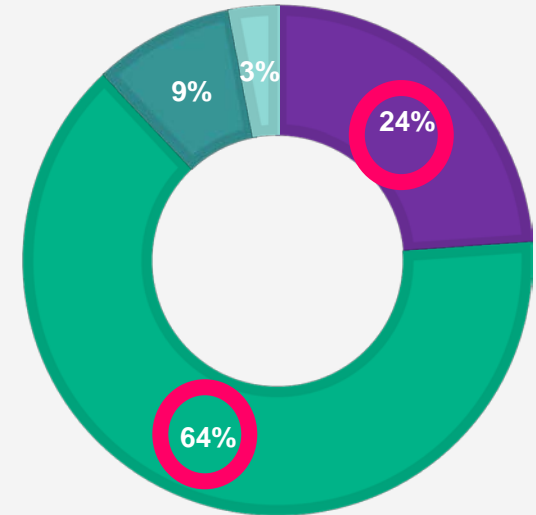


6 units



Reassessment of Competency

Data Results: 67 units



No reassessment	43 (64%)
Every year	6 (9%)
Every 3 – 5 years	2 (3%)
Don't know	16 (24%)

Results Summary

Only half of units provide annual update training

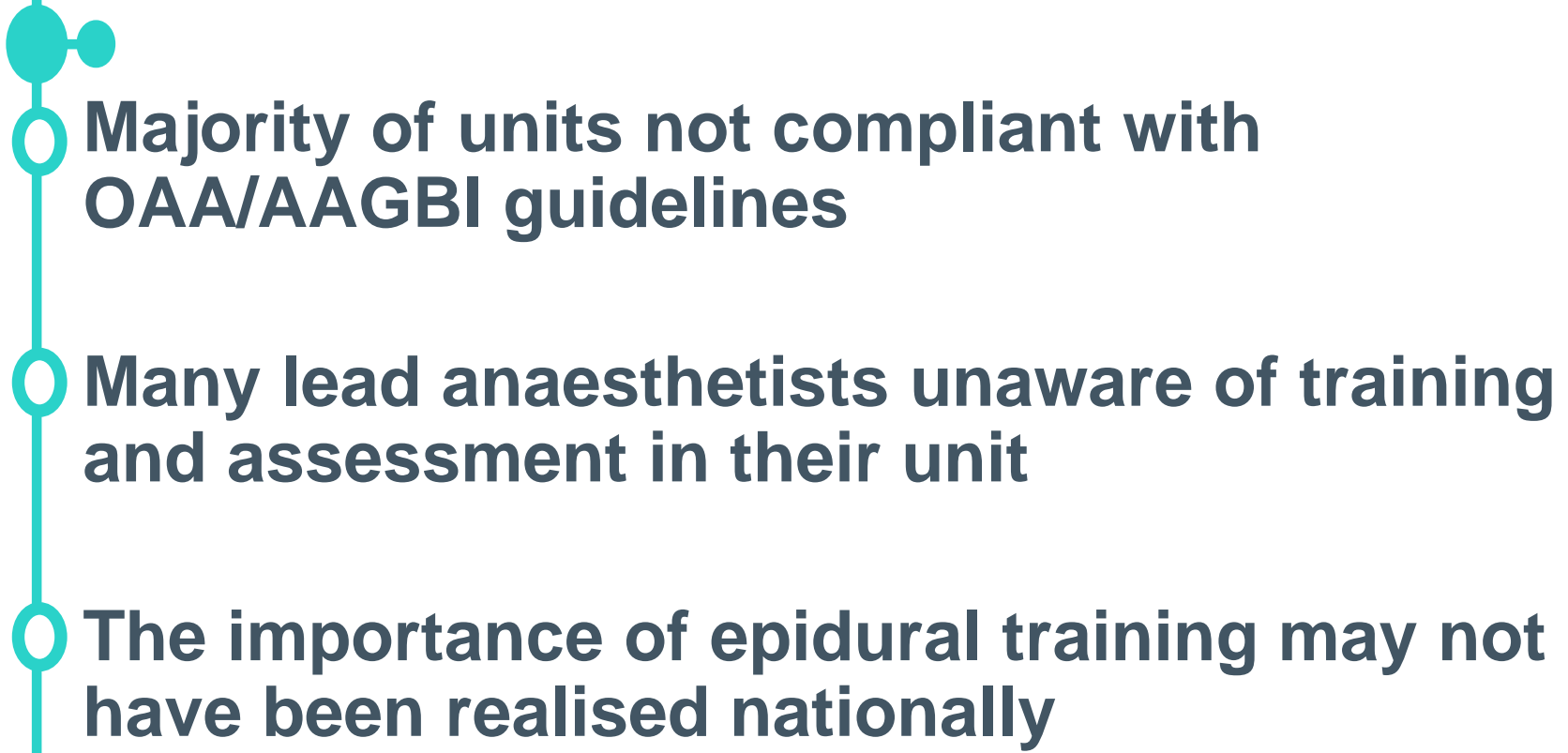
Competency is not assessed in 23% of units

Only 6 units known to perform annual assessment of competency



Key Discussion Areas



- 
- Majority of units not compliant with OAA/AAGBI guidelines**
 - Many lead anaesthetists unaware of training and assessment in their unit**
 - The importance of epidural training may not have been realised nationally**



Majority of units not compliant with OAA/AAGBI guidelines

Many lead anaesthetists unaware of training and assessment in their unit

The importance of epidural training may not have been realised nationally

Loss of SPA time

Logistical Challenges

Other training requirements

Loss of facilities

Loss of midwives to service

Where do we go from here?

Adoption of an Electronic Learning Package?

Advantages:

- **National standardisation**
- **Quality assurance**
- **Flexibility**
- **Record of competency**

Disadvantages:

- **Varying practice**
- **Time and cost of production**
- **Engagement**

Who is responsible for training?

Do we need more national guidance?

Should epidural training be an essential part of undergraduate midwifery training?

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