

5. Anaesthesia

Recommendations

Trusts should ensure that anaesthetists can identify the major cases that they have managed in order to support audit and appraisal.

Anaesthetic departments should review the allocation of vascular cases so as to reduce the number of anaesthetists caring for very small volumes of elective and emergency aortic surgery cases.

Trusts should ensure they that they have robust systems for the postoperative care of epidural catheters with accompanying appropriate documentation.

Anaesthetic departments and critical care units should review together whether vascular surgery patients who routinely receive postoperative mechanical ventilation could be managed in a Level 2 High Dependency Unit breathing spontaneously.