

Dr Nicholas Brazel MBBS FRCA MRCP(UK)

Consultant Anaesthetist and Anaesthesia Expert Witness
Special Interest in Obstetric Anaesthesia

GMC: 7047833 – Specialist Register for Anaesthesia, Full License to Practice

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Profile

I am a full-time substantive Consultant Anaesthetist with a specialist interest in Obstetric Anaesthesia at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, appointed in August 2020. I have 17 years of post-graduate medical experience, of which 15 years of those are in anaesthetic practice. I completed a year of full-time training in Obstetric anaesthesia as part of my anaesthesia specialist training.

I anaesthetise approximately 350 patients each year, both in the NHS and the private sector. Around 25% of these cases are in Obstetrics.

I am the local lead for Obstetric Anaesthesia governance and lead on complaint response, which involves:

- Review of obstetric anaesthetic incidents and adverse outcomes
- Preparation or oversight of complaint responses
- Involvement in Multidisciplinary maternity governance
- Patient-safety investigation
- Development and review of guidelines
- Quality-improvement work and teaching arising from incidents.

I have undergone additional training in Maternity Incident Investigation delivered by the Baby Lifeline organisation in association with Cranfield University.

My wider clinical practice includes total intravenous anaesthesia, general and regional anaesthesia, trauma, major gynaecological oncology surgery, maxillofacial surgery, and dental procedures for adults with learning disabilities.

Anaesthesia experience and training

August 2020-Present: Consultant Anaesthetist with special interest in Obstetric Anaesthesia, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

August 2015-August 2020: Specialty Training in Anaesthesia, East Midlands Deanery

August 2014-August 2015: Clinical Fellow in Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine, Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor

August 2011-August 2014: Acute Care Common Stem, East Midlands Deanery

August 2009-August 2011: Foundation Programme, North Yorkshire and East Coast

Qualifications

MBBS	Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery Hull York Medical School,	2009
MRCP	Member of the Royal College of Physicians	2013
FRCA	Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists	2016
CCT	Certificate of Completion of Training, Anaesthesia	2020

Expert Witness Training/Experience

I accept instructions on behalf of both claimants and defendants. I have prepared more than 20 medicolegal opinions and reports, comprising screening opinions and CPR Part 35-compliant reports addressing breach of duty and causation in anaesthetic practice. My instructions have included obstetric anaesthesia, neuraxial procedures, pain during caesarean section, consent, neurological and procedural complications, and perioperative care. My instructions are approximately 60% defendant and 40% claimant. I have completed the Bond Solon Civil Expert Certificate.

Areas of particular expertise

- Obstetric Anaesthesia
- Assessment and management of labour epidural analgesia
- Conversion of labour epidural analgesia for operative delivery
- Assessment of neuraxial block before caesarean section
- Pain during caesarean section under neuraxial anaesthesia
- General anaesthesia for operative delivery
- Difficult and failed neuraxial procedures
- Neurological complications following neuraxial anaesthesia
- Post-dural puncture headache
- Major obstetric haemorrhage, including postpartum haemorrhage and coagulopathy
- Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including severe pre-eclampsia and eclampsia
- Maternal deterioration, collapse and resuscitation
- Timeliness and prioritisation of anaesthetic care for operative delivery
- Consent for obstetric anaesthesia

General anaesthetic practice

- Preoperative assessment and optimisation
- Consent and communication of anaesthetic risk
- Difficult airway management and complications of airway instrumentation
- Dental injury associated with anaesthesia
- Regional anaesthesia and associated complications
- General anaesthesia and accidental awareness
- Total intravenous anaesthesia
- Perioperative anaphylaxis
- Intraoperative hypotension, haemorrhage and cardiovascular instability
- Perioperative resuscitation and management of the deteriorating surgical patient
- Anaesthesia for major gynaecological, trauma and maxillofacial surgery

Professional registration, memberships and indemnity

- Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists
- Member of the Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association
- Full, unrestricted GMC registration
- Medical Protection Society

Indemnity

I hold professional indemnity covering medicolegal matters through the Medical Protection Society (MPS). I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, number ZB566150.