*Highland Hospital is the 1st hospital in Rochester to use Nitrous Oxide breathed thru a face mask for pain relief in labor. As it is a gas used for anesthesia it needs to be addressed. The medication administration device is preset. When the woman feels a contraction started, she picks up the mask and breathes through it until the contraction begins to subside. Pain relief while not complete is instantaneous. When she takes the mask away the effects stop immediately. The medication is processed through the lungs so none of it gets to the baby. I expect we’ll be seeing its use come gradually to all of our hospitals.*

The woman was admitted to Labor & Delivery at 1700 hr. in active labor with cervical change since her appointment with the Midwife at 1500 hr. She immediately requested epidural pain relief. After a discussion with her midwife, she accepted Nitrous Oxide via face mask and needed nothing further for pain relief. The baby was delivered at 2100 hr.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Anesthesia / Analgesia** | **Anesthesia / Analgesia** ⬜ None ⬜ Unknown at this time**Select all that apply**⬜ Epidural (Caudal)⬜ General Inhalation⬜ Pudendal | ⬜ Local⬜ Paracervical | ⬜ Spinal⬜ General Intravenous |
| **Was an analgesic administered?** ⬜ Yes ⬜ No |  |  |

*It’s not being used as an anesthetic in this circumstance.  It does not take away all of the pain.  If the laboring woman breathed it continually, she would lose consciousness and essentially become anesthetized (she also would become intubated).  That would be a complication, not its intended effect.*