

2026 Electronic Patient Monitor Failure

Permission to print:	Yes
Category	Capital Equipment Failure
Category 2	Electrical / electronic
Severity	Good Catch Near Miss
Description:	I took over a case late due to a staff sickness and after reviewing the patient I took the pre-primed overnight emergency HLM (ESSENZ) directly into theatre as the patient was already being anaesthetised. I plugged in everything and started switching on the devices including the Electronic Patient Monitor (EPM). I carried on with the setup but noticed the EPM was not booting up. I gave it another couple of minutes but then decided to force a shutdown and reboot. This time it booted up but did not immediately open the ESSENZ Client (the app controlling our data base) I tried to manually open it but to no avail. I called in the Perfusion Coordinator for a look, but the EPM appeared to be unusable, and I needed to get another HLM. I informed the surgeon that there would be a delay. I disconnected all the cabling and other devices and a new HLM was bought into the room, which was readied without incident. In all there was about a 20-minute delay in starting the surgery with an anaesthetised patient. The EPM appeared to be dead from that point and a replacement EPM was required moving forward. Luckily we didn't get a crash the night before as it was the overnight wet pump and we may not have had time to change it. If happened during a case we'd have to keep going with just the cockpit and manually note all the times etc. We got the company Biomed engineer to come have a look at it and it was dead. We haven't had any software updates recently. We will be getting a replacement for it. It's actually our second one – the a prevoius one a few months ago.
GOOD CATCH - what went well	I was in theatre reasonably early so was able to identify the problem before the surgery began. Also, there was another primed pump available due to a case cancellation so there was no need to set up and prime another pump. Fortunately, the pump was not needed the previous night for an emergency, which could have caused a harmful delay when the EPM problem was found.
Type of incident:	Equipment
Manufacturer advised:	Yes
Discussed with team:	Yes
Hospital incident filed:	Yes
Ext Authority Advised	No
Patient outcome variance	Nil