



Information for patients having a procedure in theatres

We understand this may be a difficult and worrying time for you and you may be anxious about coming into hospital.

In response to Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have introduced important changes to the way we deliver care to:

- reduce the risk of you becoming infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19) during your time in hospital
- reduce the risk of you bringing the infection into hospital

Please take time to read this information carefully to help prepare you for your procedure.

Before your procedure

You are on the green pathway.

This means you will be screened for Coronavirus (COVID-19) before you come to the hospital.

Please tell us about any contact you have with anyone with Coronavirus in the 14 days before your operation.

In line with national guidelines, for 14 days before your procedure we ask that you and members of your household keep to strict social distancing guidance and frequently clean your hands when you are outside your house. Please avoid attending any social gatherings or going to areas where social distancing is difficult, such as beaches and busy parks. This is asked in order to reduce the risk of your procedure being cancelled if you catch Coronavirus as well as protecting other patients and healthcare workers.

Individual patients with specific medical needs or those having complex surgery may be recommended to self isolate at home for a period of time before or after surgery. Your surgeon will advise you if you need to do this.

We will book an appointment for you to provide swab samples 3 days before your procedure. You will need to stay at home self isolating for the time between your swab appointment and the day of your admission. If your swab comes back positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) your procedure will be postponed.

If you or anyone else in your household develops symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) during the 14 days before your procedure, please seek advice from NHS 111 and notify your surgical team.

On the day of your procedure

Getting to hospital: Ideally we would like you to use your own or a friend's vehicle to arrive at hospital, rather than public transport or a taxi. If you need to use public transport or if a friend or taxi will be dropping you off, please ensure you clean your hands when you arrive at the hospital. If you travel with someone who is not in your household, please sit in the rear of vehicle and use a face covering during this journey.

We ask all patients, visitors and staff to wear a face covering inside the hospital. Please bring one if you have your own, or you can obtain one at the hospital entrances.



In the hospital: Please come up to the ward on your own, unless you need a helper. We will tell you about the current restrictions to our visiting policy when you have your pre-operative assessment.

To avoid crowding in the admission ward, please do not attend any earlier than we ask you to. You will be welcomed on to the ward by our teams.

When it is time for your procedure, you will be collected by the team in theatre. The staff in theatre will be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). This is to protect you and themselves.

After your procedure

If we are expecting your procedure to be a day case procedure, you will need a responsible adult with you at home for at least 24 hours after any sedation or anaesthetic in case you feel unwell, so please arrange for someone to do this.

If we have planned for you to stay in hospital overnight, you will be cared for on a ward for screened COVID negative patients.

When you are discharged your surgeon will give you advice about your recovery, this may include self isolating at home after your operation.

Please ensure you have your own supply of over-the-counter pain relief medication, for example paracetamol, to use at home after your surgery. If you need additional medication this will be provided by the hospital.

Please speak to your consultant's secretary if you have any questions about this guidance.

Please ask if you need this leaflet in an alternative format.

You can use this space to record important dates and times about your procedure

You will have your COVID-19 swab tests on [date]:

..... / / at [time]: :

and will take place at [place]:

You will need to stay at home self isolating between your swab appointment and the day you come in for your procedure.

You will come in for the procedure on [date]:

..... / / at [time]: :

Please arrive on time and not too early.

You need to come to [ward/admission area]:

The last time you should eat is at [time]:

..... :

You can drink water/clear fluids on the day of your procedure until [time]

..... : We will tell you when you arrive if it is safe to continue drinking water while you wait.

Please follow any medication advice given by the pre-operative assessment services.