

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital
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The Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland (VSGBI) have contributed to NHS England to give advice on the management of vascular patients during the current pandemic. Owing to the rapidly evolving situation regarding the COVID-19 (CV-19) virus, the way in which we are managing patients has changed. We will now be focusing on prioritising patients based on their individual need, as well as taking into account the impending pressures on the hospital. Principles include reducing unnecessary exposure to hospitals, deferring less urgent cases and reducing length of stay or dependency on Critical Care (VSGBI guidance dated 20th March 2020):

- Elective arterial surgery and venous surgery has been deferred
- ONLY urgent outpatient referrals will be seen (*based on referral correspondence*)
- Those whose appointment has been cancelled (*e.g. claudication, etc.*), PATIENTS are requested to CONTACT the Vascular service in 3 months to indicate your desire for the appointment to proceed:
 - Mr Godfrey / Ms Hulin / Ms Baker - 01202 726294
 - Mr Wijesinghe / Ms Davies - 01202 303626 (ext 5843)
 - Mr Lee - 01202 704621
 - Mr Rittoo / Mr Watson / Mr Metcalfe- 01202 704601
- Patients discharged from hospital following vascular care will be contacted via telephone as a follow-up after discharge and again six weeks later.
- The threshold for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm surgery will be considered as a balance of risk of rupture (*over the next 3-6 months*) against the risk of intervention, resource limitation and risk of exposure to COVID-19 (as an inpatient and during the recovery phase following discharge). At present, AAA >7cm or at risk of imminent rupture, intervention is recommended.

Please continue to optimise your personal health in these challenging times (*smoking cessation, medication compliance, etc.*). With best wishes,

Department of Vascular Surgery, Royal Bournemouth Hospital