

Having a planned procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic

You have been provided with this patient information leaflet because you are booked to come into hospital to have a planned procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic and it is important to make you aware that your patient journey may be affected in several ways. Covid-19 is the infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Guidance relating to treatment for patients during Covid-19 is rapidly changing. As a Trust we will endeavor to provide you with up-to-date information and advice about the risks of treatment, but it is important that you are aware that some of these risks are unknown to us.

Why am I having this procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic?

The decision whether or not to proceed with the procedure will be made with you after a careful assessment of the balance of risks. The urgency of the procedure will be compared with the risk of you acquiring Covid-19 and the consequences of not proceeding. This can be a difficult decision, not least because there is much that is not known about the virus. This leaflet provides some general information. Your clinical team will discuss with you the risks and benefits specific to the procedure for which you have been booked.

If I come into hospital will I get Covid-19?

Many systems have been put in place by the hospital to protect patients and staff from coronavirus infection. However coming into hospital will increase your chances of contracting the virus and developing the associated disease, Covid-19. This risk has been balanced against the clinical need for you to have the procedure now rather than wait.

Will I be tested for Covid-19 before my procedure? Will my family be tested?

You will be tested for Covid-19 before your procedure takes place. This will normally be done 2-3 days before your admission and the test may be repeated on the day of admission. Swabs will be taken from your nose and throat. Your family will not be tested.

What happens if I test positive or if I am unwell?

If you test positive for Covid-19, you will be informed by the infection control team. Even if you do not have symptoms, your procedure will be postponed. You will be retested; when you test negative, your procedure will be rebooked. If you or anyone in your household are unwell **do not come to the hospital**. You should inform your clinical team and your procedure is likely to be postponed.

Have all staff involved in my procedure been tested for Covid-19?

No, at the moment, we are not routinely testing members of staff who do not have symptoms, but this may change.

What measures are being taken by the hospital to make sure my procedure is safe?

Infection control: The hospital has a dedicated infection control team who are responsible for supporting staff and patients to prevent and control the spread of all infection.

Social distancing: In keeping with national guidance, we have introduced measures to support and facilitate physical distancing between individuals in the hospital. You will see signs around the hospital reminding you to keep 2 metres away from others whenever possible and asking you to keep to the left in the corridors and on the stairs.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Staff will wear protective clothing when they care for you. PPE requirements will vary depending on the procedure being undertaken, the role of the staff involved in that procedure and the location and role in which they are working. The illustrations below show examples of PPE that you are likely to see in the hospital. Currently both staff and patients must wear a face mask in all clinical areas of the hospital.



Segregation: All patients admitted to hospital are tested for Covid-19. We have re-organised our wards and operating theatres to separate patients who have tested positive from those who have tested negative.

Covid-19 is very infectious. It is important you understand that despite all these infection control measures, there is a risk of you catching it when you attend for your procedure.

What are the additional risks of having treatment at this time during the Covid-19 Pandemic?

Procedures are taking longer to complete due to the need for social distancing and the use of PPE. For some patients this may mean a longer stay in hospital and an increased risk of complications.

We will do everything we can to keep you safe. However, if you are already infected or become infected with Covid-19 when you have your procedure or whilst you are in hospital, this could make your recovery more difficult. It may also increase your risk of serious illness, or death.

Before you are admitted to hospital for your procedure, you will have a general health assessment which may be face to face or on the telephone. Any risks particular to you and your planned procedure will be discussed and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Will I be able to have visitors?

We have restricted all visitors to the hospital in line with Government guidelines to reduce potential transmission of the virus. It is likely you will not be permitted to have any visitors whilst in hospital, not even your family and friends.

How will I be able to keep in contact with my family during my admission?

You will be able to use your mobile phone in certain areas of the hospital. The hospital has free Wi-Fi and we have set up a 'keeping in touch' email address. Your relatives and friends can use this email address to send messages, letters, pictures and drawings to you while you are in hospital. The service will be manned by our volunteers who will deliver the messages to the wards. The email address for Poole Hospital is: keepingintouch@poole.nhs.uk. The email address for the Royal Bournemouth Hospital is keepingintouch@rbch.nhs.uk

What happens after my procedure?

When will I be able to go home?

You will be discharged from hospital when you are medically fit. If you require a post-procedure review, this may be a telephone call rather than a face-to-face consultation.

What else will be different?

In order to minimise the number of visits you need to make to the hospital:

- **Outpatient appointments** before and after your procedure, including your anaesthetic assessment and consent may be carried out by telephone call or video. If you wish to involve your family in these consultations, please let us know.
- You may be contacted by email and letter.
- **Consent appointment.** We must by law obtain your written consent before any procedure is undertaken. During this appointment, a member of the medical or nursing staff will explain to you the risks benefits and alternatives to the procedure you are having, before asking you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, you will have the opportunity to ask questions. This consent appointment may be undertaken by telephone and you may receive a copy of your consent form in the post for your signature or be asked to sign a consent for when you are admitted to hospital.
- You may not meet your surgeon (or the person undertaking your procedure) until the day of treatment and they might not be the person you expected. They will however be experienced and appropriately qualified to perform your procedure.

What do I need to do?

All patients admitted to hospital for a procedure will be asked to **self-isolate** after they have had a Covid-19 swab taken. This will normally be for 2-3 days. In addition to this, you and your family should maintain comprehensive social distancing and hand hygiene for 14 days before your procedure.

Dependent on the nature of your planned procedure and your general health, you may be asked to self-isolate for up to 14 days before your procedure. **Self-isolation means you and anyone living with you must not leave home and must not have contact with anyone outside the house.**

You will need to have any essential supplies delivered to the house. We are asking you to do this to minimise the risk of you being infected with coronavirus when you are admitted to hospital. This protects you, other patients and also the hospital staff who will be caring for you. You may also be advised to isolate after your procedure to minimise the risk of you developing complications.

You will be given clear information about this during your consent appointment. Please read any information we have provided and tell us if you have any concerns or questions. If there is anything you do not understand, please telephone us on the number you have been given. This is most likely to be the admissions team who has been communicating with you, but it might be a secretary or specialist nurse.

If you wish to go ahead with your planned procedure, please read and sign the Covid-19 consent form at the end of this patient information leaflet.

What happens if I wish to delay this procedure?

We hope that, having read this information leaflet, you are reassured that we have carefully considered with you, the risks and benefits of proceeding with your planned procedure at this time. We are committed to keeping you and our staff safe. We understand however, that you may wish to delay your procedure. We need to make you aware that future dates for your procedure may take much longer than normal to arrange. We are unable to provide a realistic time frame as to when it could be rescheduled.

I would like to speak to someone who knows my case.

If, having read this leaflet, you have questions or concerns that have not been answered, please contact your Consultant's secretary in the first instance.

Contact details

Telephone number to be completed by dispatching department.

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DW

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Covid-19 Consent

Having read this information leaflet, if you wish to proceed with your planned procedure, please complete and sign the form below and bring this to the hospital with you on the day of your admission.

In signing this document you are agreeing to the following statements:

I have read and understood the information leaflet “**Having a planned procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic**”

I (and my household) have adhered strictly to recommended self-isolation requirements. I have isolated for:

3 days

14 days

I (and my household) have **NOT** had symptoms suggestive of Covid-19 infection in the last 14 days

I understand that if I develop COVID infection around the time of my surgery there is a significant risk to my life

I have considered the risks and benefits and have decided that I would like to undergo my planned procedure

NOTE: If you are not able to comply with any of the above conditions please contact your clinical team who may have to defer your surgery until national guidance changes.

Name of Patient:

Signature of Patient: Date:

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DW

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