

Important information regarding your planned procedure during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Information for women
and their families



There are some additional risks to both patients and healthcare workers during this period. We have made new arrangements to greatly reduce these risks – please read this information carefully and feel free to ask questions.

We have arranged to treat patients in hospital as normally as possible.

In planning your care, we have carefully weighed up the risks and benefits to you, taking into account any additional risks. These risks are real – doctors, nurses and patients have unfortunately died of pneumonia caused by coronavirus. Research has shown that these risks can be worse for patients who are positive to covid-19 and have surgery.

The risks of coronavirus infection will also be mentioned on your consent form.

We have put a number of measures in place to help reduce the risks. These measures ensure social distancing on wards as much as possible. We are testing all pregnant women who are admitted to hospital for an overnight stay. This includes women who have symptoms of Covid-19, as well as women who have no symptoms of Covid-19. Hospital staff are also wearing personal protective equipment (PPE). Please be aware that staff may be wearing a lot of protective clothing which can look a little intimidating. (See picture).



We have put four new measures in place to ensure your safety:

These measures should be highly effective if they are followed.

1. A period of self-isolation

We are recommending you and your household adhere to a period of isolation (usually 3 days) prior to your planned surgery. This recommendation is to minimise the risks associated with contracting coronavirus late in pregnancy especially if having surgery.

You will receive a letter prior to your scheduled admission informing you of when we recommend you start isolating. It is recommended your household isolate as well as they are practicably able to do. We understand isolating for partners and children will be very difficult especially as restrictions have now relaxed outside of healthcare. It is recommended children continue to attend school and partners attend work if they are unable to work from home.

To minimise the risks associated with Covid-19 in late pregnancy, especially if you are having surgery, it is important you and your household ensure you follow social distancing and hand hygiene guidance strictly.

It is important you attend, in person any hospital appointments relating to your pregnancy or planned surgery unless you have been told not to.

2. Testing for Covid-19

We will arrange a Covid-19 swab test 2-3 days before your planned admission. This is to confirm that you are not suffering from Covid-19. The test for Covid-19 is a simple swab from your nose and throat.

It is very important that you attend on the date given as there may be a delay in your surgery if the swab has not been obtained in a timely manner.

This test will also be repeated when you are admitted for your planned surgery.

3. Receiving your test results

You will be contacted by our team if your result is positive. In the unlikely event that you test positive for Covid-19, there may be a change to the timing of your surgery.

Your result will be reviewed by a consultant and an individual management plan made. We will continue to discuss your treatment options with you.

4. Discharge from hospital

After your treatment, you may be suitable for an early discharge from hospital. This is to help reduce your length of stay in hospital and reduce the risk of you catching any Covid-19 associated infection. At home you will be supported by the community midwifery team and our outpatient clinics.

Please be assured we will carefully consider your case to make sure that the quality of your care is not compromised.

It is important you tell us if you or anyone you share a house with think they have Covid-19. We will also ask you these questions when you come to the hospital. In the last 7 days have you had a:

- New dry cough?
- Raised temperature or fever?
- Loss or changes in your sense of taste or smell?

Or has a household member had any of these symptoms in the last **10** days?

If you or a household member think you may have Covid-19 please contact: **Antenatal Clinic 0113 206 5324** between the hours of 8am-1pm

We are here to support you and understand this situation is very stressful.

For more information and updated governmental advice please visit: <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>



If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further please contact your **Community Midwife** or **Antenatal Clinic 8am-1pm 0113 206 5324**

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