

# Having surgery during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Information for patients



Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will do everything it can to provide your surgery at this time. It is important for you to know the Coronavirus has increased demand on the entire health service. It has also changed the way health services provide care. This form explains how your care may be affected.

Your assessment and care may be disrupted, delayed or performed differently during the pandemic.

Coming to hospital might increase your chances of catching Coronavirus (COVID-19), or you may be already carrying it when you come for your operation.

If Coronavirus infection occurs when you have surgery or whilst in hospital, this could make your recovery more difficult, or increase your risk of serious illness, or death. Elderly patients or those with conditions such as high blood pressure, obesity or diabetes are likely to be at higher risk. We are learning about the Coronavirus all the time. There may be some risks that we are not aware of yet that may also affect your recovery from surgery.

We will do everything we can to perform your operation, to keep you safe, and to provide you with information at all times. Staff may be wearing protective clothing (PPE) and social distancing guidelines will be followed wherever possible.

You may wish to delay your operation, and we would understand your reasons for this. However, future dates for surgery may take much longer than normal to arrange.

Your surgeon will explain the risks and benefits of your surgery and any possible alternative forms of treatment.

## Before your operation

- Your anaesthetic assessment will be completed by telephone, with a nurse.
- We will arrange for you to have Coronavirus testing before your operation. You may also require other investigations, including blood tests.
- Your operation is likely to be postponed if you test positive for Coronavirus or are unwell.
- We will ask that you go into strict isolation before your procedure, unless it is an emergency. You will be given clear information about this and it is vitally important that you follow these instructions carefully.

## Your operation

- Your operation will take place at any of our hospitals able to perform the procedure. This may include The Spire Hospital Leeds or the Leeds Nuffield Hospital.
- Our hospitals will look very different. Wards will be reorganised, and staff will be wearing protective equipment. Your surgery may take longer than usual.
- You may not meet your surgeons until the day of treatment, and they may not be the ones you expected. They will however be experienced and trained to perform your operation.
- Your family and friends are not likely to be able to accompany you to hospital or visit you whilst you are with us.

## After your operation

- You will be discharged from hospital when you are ready. You may be moved to a 'step-down' unit to complete your recovery. This may be at another hospital.
- Following discharge, we will check on you by telephone.
- Some follow up care may need to happen at your local hospital or with your GP.

## Statement of patient

*I acknowledge the information above, which I have read together with my surgical consent form.*

Signature: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

Name (PRINT): .....

Relationship to patient: .....

Confirmation of consent (to be completed by a health professional when the patient is admitted for the procedure, if the patient/parent has signed the form in advance).

*I have confirmed that the patient has no further questions and wishes the procedure to go ahead.*

Signed: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

Name (PRINT): .....

Job title: .....

**What did you think of your care? Visit [bit.ly/nhsleedsfft](https://bit.ly/nhsleedsfft)**  
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