

Having an endoscopic procedure during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Information for patients

A large, stylized graphic of a white eye shape, resembling a comma or a thick, curved line, set against a teal background. The graphic is positioned in the lower half of the teal section.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will do everything it can to provide your endoscopy 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), however the risk is thought to be very low, or you may already be carrying it when you come for your endoscopic procedure.

If Coronavirus infection occurs when you have your endoscopy or whilst attending the hospital, this could 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.

We will do everything we can to perform your endoscopic procedure, 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 endoscopic procedure, and we would understand your reasons for this. However, future dates for endoscopic procedures may take much longer than normal to arrange.

Before your Endoscopy

- We will arrange for you to have Coronavirus testing before your endoscopic procedure. You may also require other investigations, including blood tests.
- Your endoscopic procedure is likely to be postponed if you test positive for Coronavirus or are unwell.
- We will ask that you go into strict isolation for seven days 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.
- If your endoscopic procedure is to be performed under general anaesthesia your anaesthetic assessment will be completed by telephone, with a nurse.

Your Endoscopy

- Your endoscopic procedure may take place at any of our hospitals able to perform the procedure. This may include St James's Hospital, Leeds General Infirmary and Wharfedale General Hospital, Otley.
- Our hospitals will look very different. Endoscopy departments will be reorganised, and staff will be wearing protective equipment. Your endoscopic procedure may take longer than usual due to the extra precautions in place due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Your endoscopist will explain the risks, benefits and possible alternatives of your procedure before confirming your consent. This may happen in the procedure room.
- Please try to arrive at the time indicated for your appointment. Due to social distancing there is limited capacity in our reception and waiting areas and you may be asked to wait outside the department if you arrive too early.

- Your family or escort can bring you to your appointment but they will not be able to stay and wait for you in the endoscopy department. The nurse taking care of you will contact your family/escort when you are ready to be collected.

After your procedure

- You will be discharged from the endoscopy department when you have recovered from your procedure.
- Your results and any follow up care will be discussed with you before you leave the department.

Statement of patient

I acknowledge the information above, which I have read together with my endoscopy 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 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:

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