



The Dudley Group
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients undergoing surgery during the coronavirus pandemic

Patient Information Leaflet

You were offered surgery to treat your condition at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust. This leaflet explains how circumstances have changed since the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and how this may affect you.

COVID-19 is a new disease caused by a virus known as coronavirus. Approximately one in five people who catch the virus do not experience any symptoms and will be unaware that they have been infected. Most patients who catch coronavirus only experience mild flu-like symptoms. Unfortunately, about one in five people develop a more serious illness (COVID-19 disease) and may need to be admitted to hospital.

Under normal circumstances, the great majority of patients have a smooth recovery from surgery, and only a small percentage experience any kind of complication. Before your admission for surgery, your consultant will have discussed the benefits of the operation that you have been offered and the risk of complications that this entails. During the coronavirus pandemic, it is vital that we minimise the risk of you coming into hospital if you have coronavirus, and that we minimise the risk of you catching coronavirus while you are in hospital. This is because we know that people having surgery while they have coronavirus are at a higher risk of developing complications.

We will take several measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19 adversely affecting you, such as:

- We will assess your health in relation to the risk factors for surgery, anaesthesia and COVID-19 disease. If your surgery is deemed high risk, your operation may have to be deferred for the time being. You will receive a separate letter if your surgery is deemed high risk.
- Our plan is to resume surgery on patients with the fewest underlying medical conditions as this surgery will be deemed low risk. This will also allow us to ensure that those patients who require urgent surgery are prioritised. By doing this, we hope we will minimise the risk of you acquiring coronavirus.

- All patients attending for elective surgery under local or general anaesthetic should follow comprehensive social distancing and hand hygiene measures for 14 days prior to their admission.
- You must also have a COVID test three days prior to the procedure and self-isolate from that day until your admission.
- Some more high risk patients will still be recommended to self-isolate for 14 days. These patients will be identified by the clinician, and the patients will be advised of this at listing. However, this is a recommendation and is not enforced.
- All patients undergoing procedures in the minor procedure room or at Corbett Outpatient Centre are classed as minor procedures and do not require a COVID test or isolation.
- COVID testing is located at Guest Outpatient Centre, Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SE. Please enter via the side entrance on foot. This entrance is signposted as COVID testing. **Do not enter via the main entrance.**
- Patients over the age of 16 must self-isolate from the day of the COVID test until the day of the procedure. Please follow the guidance via these links:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-to-avoid-spreading-coronavirus-to-people-you-live-with/>
- Paediatric patients (16 and under) are not required to self-isolate, however, they still require a COVID test three days prior to the procedure.
- Depending on how complex your operation is and your general health, your treating clinician and team may advise that you socially isolate after surgery as well. This will be discussed with you by your surgeon.
- You must be confident that neither you, nor anyone living with you, have had any COVID-19 symptoms in the two weeks preceding your admission.

- Staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when they are treating you.
- To keep you and our staff safe, visiting is restricted at the hospital.
- We will not keep you in hospital any longer than necessary.

If you decide to go ahead with surgery, there are COVID-19 related risks that you need to consider. These include:

- With the measures outlined above, the risk of you carrying coronavirus at the time of surgery will be very low, but cannot be excluded.
- You could be unknowingly carrying coronavirus, despite not having any symptoms when you come into hospital for your operation.
- You could catch coronavirus from one of the hospital staff or other patients, who are unknowingly carrying the virus.
- If you are carrying coronavirus when your surgery is undertaken, or if you develop COVID-19 symptoms soon after surgery, your recovery could be prolonged and there is a significant risk of developing a serious illness, possibly leading to an admission to intensive care or a situation from which you may not recover. This risk is greater if you are of White European ethnicity aged over 60, Black, Asian or minority ethnicity (particularly those aged above 55, with underlying health conditions), of male gender, have had cancer within the last year, or if you have underlying conditions, such as diabetes, serious obesity, chronic lung disease, serious heart disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease (such as cirrhosis) or if you are immunocompromised.
- Your recovery from surgery could be compromised if you catch coronavirus in the first few months after your operation, and you may require readmission to hospital.
- We will do our best to ensure that you have your operation on the day it is planned, but please note that these are exceptional times. It is possible that any planned surgery may be postponed for reasons outside our control, such as lack of anaesthetic drugs or critical equipment.

At present, we cannot provide you with any hard numbers to quantify the additional risk that COVID-19 could have on the outcome of your operation. Your consultant (or a member of their team) will contact you to discuss these risks with you and will be able to answer any questions that you may have.

We will be monitoring the progress of all our patients through our outcomes programme so that we are alerted to any COVID-19 related complications, or any other complications, as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions that you would like to ask before deciding whether to go ahead with your operation, please call your consultant's secretary so we can arrange for a clinician to speak with you. If you decide not to go ahead with surgery at present, we will keep your details on our list. If you change your mind in the future, then please contact your consultant's secretary. Alternatively, if you would like to go ahead with your operation, we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/trauma-and-orthopaedics/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email dgft.patient.information@nhs.net

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru vă rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ برائے مہربانی فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔