



Western Sussex Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Web: www.westernsussexhospitals.nhs.uk

Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Surgical care during the coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Patient's surname/family name

Patient's first names

Date of birth

Health professional seeking consent

Job Title

NHS Number

Male Female

Special requirements (e.g. other language/other communication method)

Statement of health professional seeking consent

Key information for patients

The Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust will do everything we can to provide care that reduces any risk of coronavirus associated with your planned admission for surgery. Although the coronavirus pandemic has placed huge demands on the health service this is now reducing and it is appropriate to proceed with more surgery and procedures. However this form is to make you aware that your planned surgical care may be affected in many ways

In terms of your planned surgery, we must be clear that;

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

Coming to hospital might increase your chances of contracting COVID-19 virus, or you may already be 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. These risks are likely to be greater for patients already known to be at greater risk from coronavirus including older patients, those from black, asian and minority ethnic backgrounds and those with certain underlying conditions such as cardiac, respiratory disease and obesity. If you have any risk factors these should be discussed with your surgeon.

We will do everything we can to perform your operation, keep you safe, and to provide you with information at all stages. We will listen to your concerns and discuss them.

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.

These are examples of the ways in which your surgical care may be different to normal pathways of NHS services -

Before your operation

- Your consultations and advice may be given by telephone, video calls, emails or letters. It is understood that not all our patients will have online access and we will rely on telephone, post or face to face meetings in these circumstances.
- We may also ask you to email or post medical information to us.
- You will be given a copy of your consent form that explains your operation.
- Your anaesthetic assessment will be by telephone with a Nurse and possibly an anaesthetist if needed.
- Routinely, we will ask you and members of your household to go into strict isolation for 14 days before a procedure. You will be given more instructions and information about this.
- We will arrange for you to have coronavirus testing 2-3 days before your operation.
- Your operation would be likely to be postponed if you test positive or if you are unwell.

Your operation

- Your operation may not take place at the hospital that you were originally expecting. It may be at another NHS or independent local hospital.
- As a result, there may be transfer of some of your records to other local hospitals but these will be treated with strict confidentiality.
- Circumstances will be very different in whichever hospital you go to, as compared to normal. Wards/rooms will be reorganised and staff will be wearing personal protective equipment.
- You may not meet your surgeons until the day of treatment, and they might or might not be the ones you expected. They will however be experienced and trained to perform your operation.
- It is likely you will not be able to have your family and friends visit whilst you are in hospital.

After your operation

- You will be discharged from hospital when you are ready.
- We will check on you by telephone.
- Some follow up care will be in the same or different hospital.
- In the case of an emergency you may be advised to visit other local NHS hospitals with emergency and A&E services there (rather than the hospital where you had your operation).
- You may be asked to continue to isolate for another 7 days following operation to reduce risk of contracting Covid 19 infection at a time when you are recovering and to give the best chance of recovery.

If you have any questions

- You may have questions about the issues raised in this leaflet. Please contact [insert] to discuss these.
- If there are any reasons that you may think you may be particularly susceptible to coronavirus, or if you are worried about the effects it may have on you, please let us know.

Name and signature of responsible clinician

Signed: Date.....

Name (PRINT) Job title.....

Statement of interpreter (where appropriate)

I have interpreted the information above to the patient to the best of my ability and in a way in which I believe the patient can understand

Signed: Date.....

Name (PRINT)

Statement of patient

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

Signed: Date.....

Name (PRINT) Job title.....

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)

Signed: Date.....

Name (PRINT) Job title.....