



Patient Information

Urgent & Essential Endoscopy Procedures and Risk of COVID-19 infection

Background

The Government in partnership with the NHS have made it clear that all urgent and cancer treatment should continue to be prioritised wherever possible during the response to the COVID-19 emergency.

We have therefore put a process in place to reduce the risk of you developing COVID-19 infection either just before or immediately after your procedure.

What this means for you:

A member of the booking team will contact you by telephone to agree a date for your procedure, which will be performed some days before.

COVID-19 Testing

The booking team will arrange for you to undergo a routine test for COVID-19 infection at least three days before the planned date of your procedure. This will require you to attend the hospital in order to undergo the swab.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I need to have a COVID-19 swab test at least three days before my procedure?

Because it can take up to 48 hours to get the result of your test, we need to take the swab at least three days before your procedure to be confident that we will get the result before your procedure or any preparation medication that you may need to take. You will need to continue to self-isolate in the period between the swab being taken and your admission.

After the examination

We are asking all patients to contact us directly for up to 14 days after examinations if they have any signs or symptoms of Covid 19. The signs for these are:



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- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you develop any of these symptoms please contact our co-ordinator on 01793-604135.

Smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

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