

Information for patients undergoing surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic

At Grosvenor Orthopaedic Partners, your health and safety are our highest priority. Our aim is to enable you to undergo surgery as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most patients having surgery during the pandemic will NOT contract COVID-19 (coronavirus) around the time of their operation.

Grosvenor Orthopaedic Partners and our hospital locations are taking every possible measure to minimise your risk of contracting COVID-19. However, it is impossible to completely eliminate the risk of infection. The journey to and from hospital and time spent in hospital may increase the chance of contracting coronavirus. There is evidence there is increased risk of developing complications associated with surgery in patients who have coronavirus, but this is difficult to quantify as this is a new disease and there is limited medical data on this new disease.

This letter provides you with more information about the increased risks to consider, how we are minimising the risk of infection within our hospitals and what actions you need to take before, during and after your operation.

Please read this information carefully. Before going ahead with your treatment, you will be asked to sign a consent form (on the last page) confirming that you have read this information, understood it, have had the opportunity to ask any further questions and are prepared to proceed with your planned operation. You can return this consent form to us before your operation or you may do this on admission to hospital. You can change your mind at any time, but **we cannot proceed without your signed consent on this form.** Please note that we will ask you to also sign a separate form regarding the operation itself.

What are the risks if you develop COVID-19 around the time of your operations?

If you have, or are developing, COVID-19 when you come into hospital for your operation or if you catch COVID-19 in the hospital, then your recovery could be prolonged and there is a risk of developing serious illness. You are at much higher risk of having severe COVID-19 symptoms as the body tries to deal with both the surgery and the viral infection. There is approximately 50% risk of severe breathing difficulties and up to 1 in 4 chance of death.

Your recovery from surgery could be slowed if you catch COVID-19 in the first few months after your operation and may require re-admission to hospital. There is evidence that some risk factors, such as age, smoking, ethnicity, and existing chronic medical conditions may increase the risk to health from

COVID-19. There is presently no single factor which we can point to, and the interaction between all of the risk factors is unclear. If you have particular concerns about your risk from COVID-19 (or your procedure more generally) please let us know.

What are we doing to keep patients (and staff) safe during and after surgery?

Grosvenor Orthopaedic Partners are only practicing in hospitals that have a robust COVID-19 prevention plan aligned with national scientific guidance. Operations will only be performed in environments designed to ensure your safety.

Your surgeon, anaesthetist and all staff working in the hospital are routinely and regularly tested for coronavirus, even if they are showing no symptoms. Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and asked to self-isolate until they have a negative test. Everyone (including staff) is screened before they come into hospital sites for symptoms of COVID-19 and their temperature is checked. Everyone who attends hospital sites are asked to abide by national social distancing policy. All staff are trained to limit the spread of infection. Hospital theatres, equipment and wards are deep cleaned regularly.

Your surgeon, anaesthetist and all staff involved in your care will be wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), which may include a visor or goggles and face mask.

To reduce the risk of infection, the hospital may restrict or not allow visitors. You may not be able to have anyone come with you into the hospital, except in exceptional circumstances.

What do I need to do to prepare for my operation?

In order to minimise the risk of you contracting COVID-19, and to ensure that we can protect other patients and staff, we are asking all patients to follow these measures.

Before your operation:

- You and all members of your household must self-isolate at home for 14 days before the date of your operation. This means not leaving your home for any reason, even to buy food or medicine. It is very important that you follow this step for your own health and the health of hospital staff and other patients. Of course, if you or your family is faced with an unexpected situation that requires you or them to go out to buy medicine or seek

medical help, you/they should do so, but please let us know about this as soon as possible.

- You must let us know if you think you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19: a high temperature, new continuous cough, or loss or change in your sense of smell or taste. You should also let us know if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus within 14 days of your operation.
- You must also let us know if you have been contacted by the NHS Test and Trace programme, or members of your family have been contacted or displayed symptoms.
- We or the hospital facility will contact you to arrange for you to be tested for coronavirus about 2 to 3 days before your operation. We or the hospital facility will confirm where this will take place and when you will be told your results. **Please note: the hospital will charge you for the cost of the test.**
- Your operation will not take place if you test positive for coronavirus unless it is very urgent or an emergency.

On the day of your operation and during your hospital stay:

- It is important that you do not use public transport to come to hospital. We recommend that you come in a private car or taxi (wearing a face mask).
- You will be asked a set of routine COVID-19 screening questions and have your temperature taken before entering the hospital. **Your operation will not take place if you have a temperature greater than 37.8°C or have any symptoms of COVID-19.**
- Face masks – you may be asked to wear a face mask for periods of your treatment or stay.
- The hospital may restrict or not allow visitors.
- You should follow social distancing rules at the hospital.

What happens after my operation?

- In the unlikely event that you develop COVID-19 during your hospital stay, the hospital team will consider your increased risks due to the recent surgery and provide supportive care to promote recovery from both the operation and any infection. This may involve transfer to an NHS hospital.
- You and all members of your household must self-isolate for 7 days after you are discharged.
- If you need outpatient appointments or physiotherapy input following your operation, this may now take place over the telephone or via video consultation.

- If you develop COVID-19 symptoms after your discharge, then please seek immediate medical attention.

Where can I get further information?

This information is also available on www.grosvenororthopaedics.co.uk

If you have any concerns or have more questions, please:

- call us on 020 2926 5615, or
- email is on admin@grosvenororthopaedics.co.uk.

Your hospital facility may also send you information and have their own online COVID-19 information. We encourage you read this as there may be hospital-specific information you need to be aware of.

Please find below links to further useful online resources documents:

- NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery: Having an operation during the COVID-19 pandemic. <https://globalsurg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Final-Patient-Booklet-COLOUR.pdf>
- Centre for Perioperative Care: Guidance for patients having an operation during COVID-19. <https://cpoc.org.uk/patients/guidance-patients-having-operation-during-covid-19>
- Royal College of Surgeons: Information for surgical patients during the coronavirus pandemic. <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/coronavirus/recovery-of-surgical-services/tool-3/>
- Latest NHS information about coronavirus (COVID-19). <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Patient enhanced consent for undergoing surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic

Please tick all boxes below:

- I have read and understood the information given above regarding undergoing surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic
- I have had the opportunity to ask any further questions
- I would like to proceed with my planned operation

Please sign below:

Signature:

Full name:

Date: