

# Hospital Policies regarding COVID-19

## PRE-ADMISSION ASSESSMENTS, PATIENT FLOWS

- Patients coming in for elective care who have undergone self-isolation (3 days or 14 days as the case may be) and have been swab tested and found negative for COVID-19, should be deemed to be in the Green pathway. Those who come in as emergency admissions without clarity on their COVID-19 status, and all outpatients who have not been tested should be considered as being in the Amber pathway
- Careful consideration should continue to be given to not mixing the two groups and putting Green patients at the start of the operating/endoscopy session
- Careful distancing should be maintained in common areas such as Theatre or Endoscopy recovery
- Pre-Admission assessments will be mandatory for all high-risk patients and for all patients coming into the hospital for an operation under GA. This will generally be done three days prior to an elective admission. These can be done remotely (via video/telephone) or face-to-face. The latter may be preferable if a COVID-19 swab is to be done as well. COVID-19 swabs from other PHE-accredited laboratories will be acceptable, but the results need to come through to us in a timely manner
- Patients coming in for investigations or for procedures under local anaesthesia will be triaged by the relevant department 0-7 days prior to the test, following agreed triage protocols
- Patients should be advised not to use public transport while coming into the hospital for an operation. The same will apply for those in self-isolation for 14 days when they come in for Pre-admission assessment and swabs 3 days prior to the surgery.

## VISITORS

We will continue to keep visitors to a minimum during inpatient stays, and make sure that essential visits are safe and in line with UK government guidance on infection prevention.

## INPATIENT TESTING

The following rules will apply in terms of swab testing for SARS-CoV-2:

- All patients at emergency admission, whether or not they have symptoms must be tested
- Those with symptoms of COVID-19 after admission must be tested
- For patients having inpatient surgery who stay in hospital for more than 3 days:
  - For those who test negative upon admission, a further re-test should be conducted between 3 days after admission. If the patient stays in for a long duration, subsequent weekly tests should be done
  - Test all patients on discharge to other care settings, including to care homes or hospices.

## **DISCHARGE**

Discuss arrangements for follow up, postoperative care, and outcomes of diagnostic tests and investigations. Advise patients about what they should do if they develop symptoms of infection (including COVID-19 symptoms) after discharge. Emphasise the need for remaining vigilant and following social-distancing and hand-hygiene measures.