

## **COVID-19 NOTICE FOR ELECTIVE PATIENTS**

20 June 2020

We are advised that we may begin to offer elective operations, which means re-starting elective (non-urgent) hip and knee operations or injections for patients requiring interventional procedures.

We are very conscious that many patients on our waiting list are struggling with significant pain and reduced mobility. Together with BMI the Alexandra Hospital and Spire Manchester, we are taking various precautions to reassure patients and minimise risks for patients undergoing planned surgery. You will be reassured that all relevant staff will undergo regular COVID-19 testing. Various work-flows and work areas are designed to minimise risk of COVID-19 transmission between staff and patients and vice-versa.

The main risk to patients contemplating surgery is the significantly increased risk of medical complications if COVID-19 is contracted in the time around your operation. Risks are greater in patients over 70 who have other medical conditions such as severe asthma, uncontrolled diabetes, obesity, organ transplant patients, patients with cancer, cardio-vascular disease, ethnic minority groups which may make them more likely of developing complications requiring ICU and leading to death after surgery.

We will do everything we can to ensure that surgery is performed in as safe a manner as can be achieved.

Patients who choose to go ahead with surgery in the coming months must **strictly** adhere to the following measures please:

1. Patients and everyone else in the household must self-isolate for 14 days prior to the date of surgery. This involves confinement to your house and garden at all times, with no visitors.
2. Patients will be tested for COVID-19, 48 to 72 hours before their planned admission. Surgery will be postponed for any patient who tests positive for COVID- 19.

3. No visitors will be permitted into the hospital (admission or post-operative).
  
4. Self-isolation for 14 days after surgery, which also apply to all members of your household.

Admissions into hospital will be staggered. There will be fewer patients at the entrance space at any one time. There will be more spacing in the recovery areas and wards between patients and staff.

In general, because of the of social distancing measures amongst staff and the increased preparation time, additional cleansing procedures of theatre spaces and recovery areas, we will be carrying out fewer operations, as the whole process will take much longer.

Nonetheless, be reassured that with planning and organisation, we will have the capacity to go ahead with your operation provided you are certain you wish to undergo surgery in these next few months.

As part of the Informed Consent process, apart from being made aware of all the usual benefits and risks associated with no surgery, other options and surgery, patients wishing to undergo surgery will be asked to accept the additional and previously not encountered potentially serious risks of COVID-19 following an operation, which might include further hospital care, intensive care treatment/ risk of death. You will be asked to sign a COVID-19 specific Consent Form (see attached).

We look forward to looking after you again. Remote consultations via Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Facetime, WhatsApp remain available moving forwards. Face to face consultations are available from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July.

Please be in touch via e mail [manchesterhipandknee@gmail.com](mailto:manchesterhipandknee@gmail.com) or call 0161 4476753 if you wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail.

Best wishes to all, from Winston Kim and the team at Manchester Hip and Knee Clinic