

Preparing for Elective Surgery for Cancer or Suspected Cancer

An information guide



Preparing for Elective Surgery for Cancer or Suspected Cancer

You have received this leaflet because you are either about to undergo, or are undergoing:

- Cancer surgery
- Surgery for a suspected cancer

You may be feeling anxious or worried, and have concerns about attending the hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please be assured that all our care organisations across the Northern Care Alliance are working tirelessly to tackle the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The delivery of safe surgery is of utmost priority for our patients and staff.

Your team have recommended surgery and, due to the increased risks associated with this virus, we need to take extra steps to safeguard you, other patients and the staff who look after you during your time in hospital.

Please read the advice in this leaflet to help us do this.

What we need you to do prior to your surgery

Prior to attending hospital you will need to:

- Confirm that you have not had Covid-19 symptoms within the last 14 days. The symptoms are:
 - **A new continuous cough.**
 - **A high temperature.**
 - **A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of smell or taste.**
- Confirm that no member of your household is currently unwell with the above Covid-19 symptoms.
- Follow any instructions provided by your clinical team ahead of your scheduled appointment regarding self-isolation requirements. These instructions could change rapidly as new evidence develops over time.
- Please contact your team **BEFORE** arriving at hospital if you, or any member of your household, experience any of the above symptoms during the self-isolation timescale provided by your clinical team. Please contact **NHS 119** by telephone for further advice and to order a COVID Test via the track and trace service.
- Commit to a swab test for COVID-19 to take place 3 days before your operation. Please be aware that if you do not attend for your test, or if the result is positive, your surgery may be postponed. This is for your own safety.

What to expect

We are doing everything we can to maintain our planned surgery schedule, but your assessment and care may be disrupted, delayed or performed differently and results may take longer than expected due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the day of surgery

- We ask that you attend your appointment alone. However, if you have a learning disability or need carer support, you may bring one person to the appointment with you.
- Please enter via the specific entrance, detailed in your admission letter.
- You will have to pass a security check to enter the hospital, please have your appointment letter and a form of I.D. with you. Following this, you'll be directed to the receiving area where you are due to have your operation.
- Your swab test results will be reviewed.

During your time in hospital

- The staff caring for you will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and you may also be given a face mask during your stay. Please be reassured that the PPE used will be appropriate for your procedure.
- No visitors are allowed; we will ensure your family are updated on the progress of your surgery and video calling may be available.
- Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible, and we ask for your co-operation with this, but for some treatments and procedures staff may not always be able to maintain social distance.

What are the risks?

Your clinical team have recommended surgery as part of your cancer treatment, but any type of operation involves some degree of risk.

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an additional risk that you could contract Covid-19.
- Swab testing is not 100% accurate.
- If you are infected with Covid-19 either just before your operation, or in the immediate post-operative period, you are likely to become more unwell than usual. This could mean spending a longer period of time in hospital, with possible complications or you could die.
- Factors that increase the chances of being very unwell with Covid-19 include being over 70, smoking or having other health conditions.
- Choosing to delay or cancel your cancer operation may increase the risk of your cancer progressing, and future dates for operations may take longer to arrange.

Please talk to your consultant if you are thinking of delaying treatment as they will be able to share the most up to date information they have to help you make an informed decision, or discuss alternative care options, if appropriate.

If you have questions or concerns please contact either:

- Your Clinical Nurse Specialist.
- Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service - North Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale & Bury 0161 604 5244 / 0161 720 2022
- Macmillan Cancer Information and Support Service – Salford 0161 206 1455

You can leave a message on our answerphone if we are unable to take your call. Please leave a brief message with your name and contact details.

Information about the latest patient and visitor information can be found on our hospital websites:

- <https://www.pat.nhs.uk/>
- <https://www.srft.nhs.uk/>

Please note that guidance may change at short notice.

Notes:

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

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To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897


For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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