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Attending endoscopy appointments during COVID-19 pandemic

Information for patients who have received a letter with an appointment to attend hospital for an endoscopy procedure.

We are making every effort to make the endoscopy departments as safe as possible for you to visit during the Coronavirus pandemic.

If you are being offered an appointment it is because your case has been checked by a doctor and it is considered important that it goes ahead.

To limit the risk of infection in the endoscopy department and ensure the safety of vulnerable patients, we have put the following steps in place:

1. When your procedure is booked you will be asked some additional questions about your risk of having, or having been exposed to coronavirus.
2. You will be asked to have a coronavirus swab test before you come for your procedure.
3. You will be asked to 'self-isolate' as soon as the swab test is taken until you come for your procedure. This means you will need to stay at home and not go out or meet anyone from outside your household.
4. You will be asked to drive yourself to the hospital for your endoscopy test if possible and if you are not planning to have sedation. Alternatively, a member of your household can drive you.
5. If neither of these options is possible then someone else can bring you. You will need to sit in the back seat of the car and the driver should wear a mask to prevent them transmitting any infection to you.
6. When you arrive at the hospital please wait in your car and phone our endoscopy reception team to let them know you have arrived. When the nurse is ready to see you she will ask you to come up to the unit. This is to prevent patients waiting together in the waiting room.
7. When you arrive in the unit you will be asked again about your risk of having, or having been exposed to, coronavirus and your temperature will be taken. If at any point there is a significant risk of infection we may need to cancel your appointment or change the unit in which you have the procedure.
8. The endoscopy staff will be wearing appropriate levels of personal protective equipment (PPE).

We understand that some parts of this process will be difficult for some people. Please do contact us in advance if you have any particular anxieties or questions and we will do our best to help and support you