

Protocol for Outpatient Booked Appointments during COVID-19

1. Prior to ANY hospital face to face appointment

Patients need to be contacted / in contact within 48 hours of appointment and asked the following questions:

“Because of the Covid-19 Global Pandemic, we are contacting you to undertake some checks before your planned hospital attendance.

Within the past two weeks:

1. Have you displayed any of the following: (If YES, please self isolate and follow advice on NHS Inform. Please rebook for after 14 days)
 - i. High temperature
 - ii. New continuous cough or new shortness of breath or
 - iii. New loss of sense of smell
2. Have you been in recent contact with anyone displaying any of these symptoms or confirmed positive for COVID 19? (if YES, please self isolate and follow advice on NHS Inform. Please rebook for after 14 days)
3. Have you travelled abroad in the last 2 weeks (YES – please self isolate for 14 days, and rebook for after 14 days are complete)
4. Are you currently isolating, or been advised in writing to “Shield” for a period of 12 weeks?
 - i. YES – due to symptoms of COVID or a positive COVID test – please complete recommended isolation period, we will be back in touch
 - ii. YES – for protection only, no covid risks – fine for admission
 - iii. YES – for shielding – then clinician to be advised for decision
5. Are you aware that you must attend your appointment alone, without children, friends or family?

If postponed, do you have transport arranged for your appointment, please contact them if you do to let them know your appointment has been postponed.

Please make sure that from now on you strictly follow the government advice on Social Distancing. If you start to feel unwell before the appointment, please let us know before coming to the hospital.”

These questions should also be asked by the recipient of telephone referrals that leads to a hospital attendance.

2. At hospital attendance

Prior to entry to the outpatient clinic area

1. Please check questions 1,2 and 3.
2. Check the patients temperature.

If YES or patient temperature >38 c do not allow entry to clinic, inform responsible clinician so patient can be rebooked and advised to return home and self isolate immediately.