

## **PATIENT INFORMATION**

### **Having a planned procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic**

You have been provided with this patient information leaflet because you are booked into Wentworth Clinic to have a planned procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic and it is important to make you aware that your patient journey may be affected in several ways. Covid-19 is the infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

Guidance relating to treatment for patients during Covid-19 is rapidly changing. We will endeavour to provide you with up to date information and advice about the risks of treatment but it is important that you are aware that some of these risks are unknown to us.

#### **Why am I having the procedure during the Covid-19 pandemic?**

The decision whether or not to proceed with the procedure will be made with you after a careful assessment of the balance of risks. The urgency of the procedure will be compared to the risk of you acquiring Covid-19 and the consequences of not proceeding. This can be a difficult decision, not least because there is much that is not known about the virus. This leaflet provides some general information. Your clinician will discuss with you the risks and benefits specific to the procedure for which you have been booked.

#### **If I come into Wentworth Clinic will I get Covid-19?**

Many systems have been put in place by us to protect patients and staff from the coronavirus infection. However coming into the clinic may increase your chances of contracting the virus and developing the associated disease, Covid-19. The risk has been balanced against the clinical need for you to have the procedure now rather than wait.

#### **What happens if I test positive or if I am unwell?**

If you test positive for Covid-19 your procedure will be cancelled. Even if you do not have symptoms, your procedure will be postponed. If you or anyone in your household is unwell **do not come to the clinic**. You should inform your clinician and your procedure is likely to be postponed.

#### **Have all staff involved in my procedure been tested for Covid-19?**

No, at the moment we are not currently testing members of staff who do not have symptoms, but this may change.

#### **What measures are being taken by the clinic to make sure my procedure is safe?**

**Infection control:** We are trained in infection control and shall take all steps necessary to prevent and control the spread of all infection.

**Social distancing:** In keeping with national guidance, we have introduced measures to support and facilitate physical distancing between individuals in the clinic.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Staff will wear protective clothing when they care of you. PPE requirements will vary depending on the procedure being undertaken, the role of the staff involved in that procedure and the location and role in which they are working.

Covid-19 is very infectious. It is important that you understand that despite all these infection control measures, there is a risk of you catching it when you attend for your procedure.

### **What are the additional risks of having treatment at this time during the Covid-19 Pandemic?**

Procedures are taking longer to complete due to the need for social distancing and the use of PPE. The incidence of post operative complications may increase.

We will do everything we can to keep you safe. However, if you are already infected or become infected with Covid-19 when you have your procedure this could make your recovery more difficult. It may also increase your risk of serious illness, or death.

Before you are admitted to the clinic for your procedure, you will have a general health assessment which may be face to face or over the telephone. Any risks particular to you and your planned procedure will be discussed and you will have the opportunity to ask questions.

### **Safety Measures**

1. Our clinic has a positive pressure ventilation system compatible with the CQC regulations.
2. We have an air changing ventilation system 15-25 per hour.
3. We wear full personal protective equipment (PPE)

### **Will I be able to have visitors?**

We have restricted all visitors to the clinic in line with Government guidelines to reduce potential transmission of the virus.

### **Consent appointment**

We must by law obtain your written consent before any procedure is undertaken. During this appointment, a member of the medical or nursing staff will explain to you the risks, benefits and alternatives to the procedure you are having, before asking you to sign a consent form. If you are unsure about any aspect of the treatment proposed, you will have the opportunity to ask questions. The complication rate may be higher during the Covid period.

We have invested a lot of time and effort to ensure that the best possible safety measures are practiced in our clinic. Our appearance may seem a little daunting, and we apologise for this but would like to reassure you that it is still us, “underneath all of the personal protective equipment” (PPE).

**If you wish to go ahead with your planned procedure, please read and sign the Covid-19 consent form at the end of this patient information leaflet.**

*Wentworth Clinic*

## **Covid-19 Consent**

Having read this information leaflet, if you wish to proceed with your planned procedure, please complete and sign the form below and **bring this to the clinic with you on the day of your procedure**

In signing this document you are agreeing to the following statements:

I have read and understood the information leaflet "Having a planned procedure during the Covid 19 pandemic"

I (or any member of my household) have **NOT** had symptoms of COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days.

I understand that if I develop COVID infection around the time of my surgery there is a significant risk to my life

I have considered the risks and benefits and have decided that I would like to undergo my planned procedure

**Patient Name:** .....

**Signature of Patient:** .....

**Date:** .....