

Planned / Day Surgery

If you are waiting to have surgery or a procedure, we will write to you in advance of offering you a date for your surgery.

Safe locations for your surgery

COVID-19 has put our surgical services under huge pressure. You may be asked to come to Torbay Hospital, or to have your surgery as an NHS patient at our local private provider, Ramsay Healthcare at Mount Stuart Hospital. There are no COVID-19 or COVID-19 suspected patients or staff at Mount Stuart. Torbay Hospital has designated separate pathways to manage COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients.

We will write to you about COVID-19 related risks and benefits of surgery before we offer you a date for surgery

Precautions against COVID-19

When coming to Torbay Hospital or Mount Stuart Hospital for surgery or a procedure **please follow extra precautions:**

- Please ensure you follow comprehensive social distancing and hand hygiene measures for 14 days before admission

- If you are having a Surgical Procedure either under **General** or **Local anaesthetic** you will be invited to attend for a COVID test 72 hours before your procedure, after which you are required to self-isolate* within your household. This means you are in a room on your own with access to a bathroom, food etc
- Regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand rub

Before your surgery

- Most of your consultations will be by telephone or email
- Your anaesthetic assessment will likely be by telephone with a nurse, and possibly an anaesthetist too

*For support whilst isolating call the NHS Volunteer Responders helpline 8am to 8pm 📞 0808 196 3646
www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk

If you are currently shielding because you are at high risk of complications should you get COVID-19, please talk to your healthcare professional about any concerns you may have.

Your surgery is likely to be postponed if you:

- test positive for SARS-CoV-2
- have symptoms of COVID-19
- are not clinically well enough or
- need to self-isolate after contact with someone with COVID-19 (for example, as identified by the NHS Test and Trace system)

Coming to hospital for surgery

- On arrival please wear a mask or other face covering. This also applies to anyone accompanying you. Please bring this with you if possible
- You may not meet your surgeons until the day of treatment, and they may not be who you are expecting. They will however be experienced and trained to perform your surgery
- If while you are in hospital you show symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive, you will be immediately isolated to ensure the safety of other patients and staff

After your surgery

- If you need to stay in hospital, you will not be able to have friends and family visit you: we have suspended normal visiting due to COVID-19
- You will probably be more vulnerable to infection so you should continue to self-isolate for a further seven days
- You will be discharged when it is medically safe, or you may be moved elsewhere to a 'stepdown' unit to complete your recovery
- Some follow-up may be conducted by telephone
- If you are going to a care home or hospice, you will be tested for COVID-19 before you leave

Help Us to Help You to Stay Safe

When visiting our hospitals or other clinical sites, to help us reduce the risk of COVID-19 being transmitted, **all patients and visitors must please:**

- wear a face mask or covering for the duration of your visit
- use the hand sanitiser when entering and leaving our buildings
- observe 2 metres physical distancing from others
- keep left when travelling along our corridors and up and down stairways

To receive this information in a different format:

☎ 01803 217398

✉ communications.tsdf@nhs.net

📘 TorbayAndSouthDevonFT

🐦 @TorbaySDevonNHS

www.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/



Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

PATIENT INFORMATION

COVID-19

Advice for people coming to Torbay Hospital or other site for surgery or procedure

During the COVID-19 pandemic we are taking extra precautions to protect our patients and staff.

This leaflet details the precautionary measures we are taking, and ask you to take, when having planned or day surgery.