

Humanitas Healthcare Services Limited (HHS)

An Independent Healthcare Provider

Coronavirus COVID -19 Policy

Standard Operating Procedures for the delivery of Community-based Surgery

We do not envisage having to care for any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case of COVID -19:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-initial-investigation-of-possible-cases/investigation-and-initial-clinical-management-of-possible-cases-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus-wn-cov-infection>

Introduction:

We are now seemingly towards the end of phase 2 and preparing for phase 3 of the UK Government's pandemic response and coronavirus disease levels have decreased substantially over the last few weeks. The Government is gradually easing lockdown restrictions in a phased manner. Both NHS and private healthcare providers are now focussing on the restoration of routine elective services which have been in abeyance since the start of the pandemic. This focus has been driven by unmet patient needs and concerns about patients wellbeing in light of continuing and/or deteriorating non-covid related symptoms. The overriding consideration is the safety of patients, staff, and the public.

This policy has been synthesised following extensive search of published guidance information from a plethora of sources including the government (GOV.UK), National Health Service (NHS), Public Health England (PHE), Health and Safety Executive (HSE), British Medical Association (BMA), Care Quality Commission (CQC), and Ellis Whittam (<https://www.elliswhittam.com/covid-19/register>) who provide health and safety support to HHS

The document represents our organisational preparedness for preventing the introduction and transmission of Covid-19 infection in the community surgery healthcare setting.

Key Principles:

1. Assure safety and quality preoperatively, during the procedure, and post-operatively
2. Address the 4 'P's of healthcare risk assessment
 - a. Professionals/workforce
 - b. Patients
 - c. Premises/workplace
 - d. Procedures
3. Ensuring informed consent according to Montgomery principles and shared decision making with service users.
4. Assuring confidentiality and GDPR compliance
5. Collaborative team working as appropriate including with other providers/GPs, commissioners, insurers, and relevant others

Operational Procedures:

1. Risk assessment and management. Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/5-steps-to-working-safely> from Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Also HSE guidance (<https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/index.htm>)

- Risk assessment and management and Professionals/workforce
- Risk assessment and management of Patients
- Risk assessment and management of Premises/ workplace
- Risk assessment and management of Procedures

2. Infection prevention and control – Covid-19: infection prevention and control guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/893320/COVID_infection

3. Personal Protective Equipment – Covid-19 personal protective equipment (PPE): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-preventionand-control/covid-19-personal>

4. Consent

5. CPR

With regards to risk assessment and management we have completed, details are contained in separate documentation as an appendix to this policy and available on request. Salient points are that in relation to staff and patients are that we have noted and will implement the approach contained in the HSE guidance - COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients in health and social care settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/publications/covid-19-management-of-staff-and-of-exposed-patients-or-residents-in-health-and-social-care-settings>. Thus we have noted the definitions of clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable/shielding groups, BAME groups, as well as the test and trace process. As noted above **We do not envisage having to care for any individual meeting case definition for a possible or confirmed case of COVID-19.**

Therefore we have devised a rigorous covid screening questionnaires for all patients to fill. Patients will also be consented to inform us if they develop symptoms of coronavirus 48 hours after their attendance.

With regards to risk assessment and management of workplace and procedures detailed documentation is separately available but salient points relate to the practical actions contained in the 5 steps to working safely document by the department of BEIS. Thus cleaning, hand washing and hygiene facilities have been upgraded, appointments will be staggered, social distancing and patient flow measures will be in place. Recommended and appropriate PPE will be readily available for staff and patients. Musculo-skeletal (MSK) injections are a common procedure in community based surgery so it is worth noting here that there is a growing consensus attaining to the safety of corticosteroid injections (CSI). (Covid-19 :A rethink of corticosteroid injection? Bone joint Open2020;1-6:253-256 British Society for Surgery of the Hand)

With regards to infection prevention and control we will fully implements guidance as contained in government publication. All our staff have annual infection prevention and control training and are clinically experienced. Recommended PPE will always be available and we have enlisted for the eBay PPE portal.

With regards to consent we have amended our consent form to ensure that patients are fully informed of and are satisfied with our policies and our pre-, intra-, and post-operative practice. In particular our preoperative screening questionnaire and post-operative advice to inform us if they develop and covid symptoms 48 hours postoperatively.

With regards to CPR our staff have updated practical CPR training. We have developed an aide memoir to reflect advice and guidance from the Resuscitation Council UK, while noting the statement from PHE on the issue of NERVTAG's (New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group) appraisal of chest compressions as an AGP (Aerosol Generating Procedure).