



Your planned procedure at NDDH Endoscopy Unit: Coronavirus precautions

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At the moment, many people are understandably anxious about coming to hospital for treatment because they are concerned about the COVID-19 (coronavirus). We have put a number of processes in place so that you can be confident that coming to hospital is safe and that there are no extra risks from having your procedure at this time.

Do you really need the procedure?

We appreciate that people are concerned about coming to hospital, but your GP or a hospital consultant has reviewed your case and it is really important that you attend for this investigation. Delaying your test could result in harm due to a delay in diagnosis.

Coronavirus in North Devon

The spread of coronavirus has been different across the country and the South West has had some of the lowest numbers of cases and deaths. In turn, North Devon and Torridge have had some of the lowest numbers in the South West.

We now have in place a new 'green (non-COVID) pathway' for patients attending the hospital for their procedures. This pathway involves taking extra precautions before your procedure, when you arrive on the day and during/after your procedure.

The safety of patients and staff is our top priority, so despite these low numbers, we want to reassure you that we have put in place a range of measures at North Devon District Hospital to keep everyone safe from coronavirus.

Our clinical spaces and waiting areas are less crowded because we are doing more telephone and video appointments, and have limited visitor numbers

We have separate areas to keep patients who might or do have coronavirus apart from others

We are carrying out lots of testing and symptom checking for both staff and patients

We are practising good hand hygiene and are cleaning all areas frequently

We are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect staff and patients

We are supporting staff and patients to be socially distant in communal spaces like waiting rooms and corridors

We are asking people to follow the guidance in this leaflet

Before your procedure

If you are having a colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy, you will require:

1. A pre-assessment
2. Self-isolation
3. Swab testing

1. Pre-assessment

To reduce the number of people who have to come to hospital, you will have a telephone assessment instead of a face to face appointment.

2. Self-isolation

It is really important that you reduce the likelihood of catching coronavirus before your procedure because the risk of complications during your procedure is higher if you have coronavirus.

NHS England recommends that you and your household should self-isolate for 14 days before your procedure.

Self-isolating is similar to the government guidance for people who have or live with someone who has symptoms of coronavirus and means that you:

Stay at home for the whole 14 days

Do not go shopping or to work or attend any gatherings, including outdoor gatherings or those in private spaces

Do not use public transport

Strictly avoid contact with anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus

You may attend other necessary medical appointments during this period, such as pre-procedure blood tests. Ideally, the whole family should self-isolate to reduce the risk any further.

We do understand that self-isolating can be very difficult, but it is really important that every precaution is taken to protect yourself, other patients and the staff looking after you.

3. Swab testing

We will arrange for you to have a swab test two to three days before your procedure. This is because some people do not show any signs or symptoms of the coronavirus.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple
Devon EX31 4JB
Tel. 01271 322577
www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk

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