



Patient Information Leaflet

Consent for Surgery and Treatment During Covid 19

Produced by:
Ann Snow Consultant Nurse

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If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the PALS Team, telephone **01983 534850**, who will advise you.

If you are unable to read this leaflet because English is not your first language, please ask someone who speaks English to telephone PALS on 01983 534850 for further information and help.

Polish:

Jeśli nie jesteś w stanie przeczytać tej ulotki bo angielski nie jest pierwszym językiem, poproś kogoś, kto mówi po angielsku, o kontakt telefoniczny z (PALS 01983 534850) aby uzyskać więcej informacji i pomoc

Russian:

Если вы не можете прочитать этот буклет на английском языке потому что не является первым языке, пожалуйста, попросите кого-нибудь, кто говорит на английском языке для телефонного (PALS 01983 534850) для получения дополнительной информации и помощи

Turkish:

Eğer İngilizce ana diliniz değilse, çünkü bu broşürü okumak için yapamıyorsanız, daha fazla bilgi için 01983 534850 üzerinde PALS telefon İngilizce bilen birine sormak ve yardım lütfen

Bulgarian:

Ако не сте в състояние да прочетете тази листовка, тъй като английският не е първи език, опитайте някой, който говори английски, за да телефонирам (PALS на 01983 534850) за повече информация и помощ

Czech:

Pokud nejste schopni přečíst tuto příbalovou informaci, protože angličtina není vaším rodným jazykem, zeptejte se někoho, kdo mluví anglicky na telefonní PALS na 01983 534850 pro další informace a pomoc

Bengali:

আপনহিংরজেআপনারপ্রথমভাষানাথাকার কারণেএইলফিলটেপডুতে অক্ষমহন, তাহলেআরওতথ্যেরজন্য01983 534850 নভেগিশেনPALS টলেফি়োন ইংরজেকিতা কডে জজিঞাসা করুন এবং সাহায্য করুন

Introduction

Before a doctor or other healthcare profession examines or treats you they need your consent. Sometimes you can simply tell them whether you agree with their suggestions. However, if your treatment involves sedation or general anaesthesia you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you later change your mind, you are entitled to withdraw consent even after signing.

What should I know before deciding?

Healthcare professionals must ensure that you know enough to enable you to decide about your treatment. They will discuss the treatment options with you and write your choice on the consent form and ask you to sign it. They will offer you a copy to keep. Although they may recommend a particular option, you do not have to accept this. People's attitudes vary on things like the amount of risk or pain they are prepared to accept. This also applies to the amount of information given. The person who is treating you will encourage you to listen to all of the information about your treatment but if you would rather not know about certain aspects, please discuss your worries with them.

Should I ask questions?

Always ask anything you want to know. If it assists you, please write your questions down and bring them with you to your appointment. The person you ask will do his or her best to answer but if they do not know, they will find somebody else who is able to discuss your concerns. To support you and prompt questions you may wish to bring a friend or relative with you. Please ask if you would like someone independent to speak up for you.

Is there anything I should tell people?

If there is any procedure you do not wish to take place, you must tell the people treating you. It is important for them to know about any illnesses or allergies which you may have or have suffered from in the past.

Who is treating me?

There will be a range of healthcare professionals treating you and there may be a doctor in training. This person is medically qualified but now doing more specialist training. They range from recently qualified doctors to doctors almost ready to be Consultants. All healthcare professionals will only carry out procedures that they have been appropriately trained in. Someone senior will supervise either in person or give advice as is required.

What about anaesthesia?

If your treatment involves general or local anaesthesia (where more than a small part of your body is being anaesthetised) you will be given general information about this in advance. You will also have an opportunity to talk with the Anaesthetist when he or she assesses your state of health shortly before treatment. This hospital has a pre-assessment clinic which provides patients with a chance to discuss their treatment a few weeks earlier.

Will samples or photographs be taken?

As part of your treatment blood and urine samples may be taken during a physical health check, in medicine management or as part of long term condition management e.g. diabetes monitoring.

Sometimes a photographic record may be made i.e. X-rays, CT scans, or other imaging. The samples or images will be held in confidence as part of your medical record. This means it will only be seen by those involved in providing you with care or those who need to check the quality of care you have received. Your permission would be sought if these records would assist teaching and research purposes.

What if things do not go as expected?

Sometimes treatments do not go as hoped. The doctor involved will inform you/your family, but often you may be the first person to notice that something is not quite right. If you are worried please tell a healthcare professional immediately. You can also speak to your GP or contact your clinic. The phone number should be on your appointment card, letter, or consent form copy.

What are the key things to remember?

It is your decision. It is up to you to choose whether or not to consent to what is being proposed. Ask as many questions as you wish and inform the team of any concerns that you may have.

Information during Covid 19

The Isle of Wight NHS Trust will do everything we can to provide essential surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff will wear protective clothing and do all they can to prevent you catching the virus in hospital. However it is very infectious and a risk remains. Your Consultant has taken this risk into account and still recommends proceeding with

surgery is in your best interest. We will discuss this added risk and the options available to you when we talk through the planned admission and procedure. This leaflet is to make you aware that your surgical care may be affected in many ways.

We must be clear that:

- Your assessment and care may be disrupted, delayed or performed differently during the COVID -19 pandemic.
- Coming to hospital might increase your chances of contracting coronavirus,
- You might be carrying the virus when you come for your operation.
- If coronavirus infection occurs whilst in hospital, this could make your recovery more difficult, or increase your risk of serious illness, including death.
- We will do everything we can to perform your operation, keep you safe, and to provide you with information at all stages. We will listen to your concerns and discuss them.
- You may wish to delay your operation, and we would understand your reasons for this. However, future dates for surgery may take much longer than normal to arrange.

Your surgical care may be different to normal. Before your operation:

- Many of your consultations may take place by telephone, email and letters.
- We may ask you to email or post medical information to us.
- You will be sent a copy of your consent form that explains your operation/treatment.
- Your anaesthetic assessment may be by telephone with the nurse and possibly the Anaesthetist too.
- We will arrange for you to have a coronavirus swab test prior to your operation.
- Your operation will likely be postponed if you test positive or are unwell.
- We will require you to go into strict isolation before a procedure unless it is an emergency. You will be given clear information about this.

Your operation:

- May not take place at St Mary's Hospital. We may be operating at other sites which could be on the mainland at Southampton or Portsmouth.
- Circumstances will be very different in the hospital. Wards will be reorganised and staff will be wearing protective equipment.
- You may not meet your surgeon until the day of treatment and they may not be the one you expected.

- They will however be experienced and trained to perform your operation.
- It is likely that you will not be able to have your family and friends visit whilst in hospital.

After your operation:

- You will be discharged from hospital when you are ready or may be moved to a step down unit to complete your recovery.
- Any social contact such as coming in to the hospital increases the risk of you catching coronavirus. You will appreciate for many this will be a flu like illness but there is a significant risk as you recover from surgery.
- We will follow up with telephone calls.
- Follow up care or emergency admission will be at St Mary's Hospital.

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If you have any queries or concerns about the content of this leaflet please call (01983) 822099 and ask to speak to the relevant department.

Valuables should not be brought into the hospital. If patients have to bring in valuable items they should ask a nurse to store them safely and request a receipt for the items. You may not be able to have the valuable items returned if the time of discharge from hospital is out of hours.

We are sorry but the Trust cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to items not given for safe keeping.

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues online at: **www.nhs.uk**

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call the NHS 111 service on: **111**

We Value Your Views On Our Service

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the PALS Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on **01983 534850**.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5TG

You can also share any concerns you have about our services with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on **03000 61 61 61** or at **enquiries@cqc.org.uk**

All NHS sites are no smoking areas.

If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: Freephone 0800 169 0 169 to talk to the NHS Smoking Helpline.