

## **Elective surgery: your questions answered**

### **What change are you making?**

We are postponing almost all elective surgery across each of our hospitals.

Emergency cases and cancer treatments will continue as normal.

### **Why are you cancelling my operation?**

All NHS hospitals across the country have been asked to make as many staff, beds and equipment available as possible, as we prepare for an increase in the number of coronavirus patients requiring intensive care.

We have therefore made the incredibly difficult decision to postpone most surgery, apart from cancer treatment and life-saving operations, until further notice.

This is based on national guidance from NHS England.

### **My operation has been cancelled and rearranged already, why has this happened again?**

We would like to apologise for the distress and disappointment further delay will no doubt cause you.

However, I hope you can understand that it is a necessary step to protect all staff and patients.

### **Will this affect my treatment?**

Your clinical team believe that it is safe to cancel your operation and rearrange it for another date and time.

### **I have been waiting more than 52 weeks for my planned operation. When will this take place?**

Unfortunately, at the moment we are unable to say when non-urgent surgery will resume.



**Will I need to come in again for my pre-operative appointment?**

We will let you know this when we contact you to rebook your operation.

**How will you prioritise who is seen first once operations resume?**

Our clinical teams will decide this based on the needs of all of our patients

**When can I expect to hear from you again?**

We will be in touch with a new date and time for your operation in due course.

**What happens if my circumstances change?**

We have let your GP know that your operation has been postponed. Please let your GP know should there be any change in your condition.

**How will I be supported to manage my current symptoms?**

Please contact your GP for support with managing your symptoms.

**Can I have my operation at another hospital instead?**

Every NHS hospital has been asked to postpone all non-emergency surgery, so it is unlikely that you will be able to have your surgery in another hospital in the near future.

**I was advised to stop certain medications. Do these need to be restarted?**

Please ask your GP for advice about medication.