



Planned Surgery (under general or spinal anaesthesia)

PLEASE NOTE

You must not attend any appointment at hospital or any other healthcare premises if you have any of the following symptoms of COVID-19:

- a high temperature (37.8C or greater)
- and/or a new and continuous cough
- and/or a loss or change in your sense of smell and/or taste.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you need to be tested, even if you have already been tested and the result was negative.

NHS Western Isles is taking steps to re-start planned surgical services, following the pandemic lockdown period, but we must ensure that measures are in place to ensure the safety of our patients and staff.

There will therefore be changes in arrangements prior to procedures, as well as in the information you will receive, and discussions you will have with NHS staff.

Prior to your procedure

A member of staff will contact you directly by phone to discuss any risks associated with the procedure, and confirm with you that you wish to proceed with surgery.

We will:

- Inform you that you will require a test for COVID-19 24-48 hours prior to your scheduled procedure;
- Inform you that you will require to limit social contact for two weeks prior to your procedure;
- Provide advice on statutory sick pay (which you will be entitled to for the isolation period as well as the recovery period).

Pre-operative Assessment

If you choose to go ahead with your procedure, you may be given an appointment for a pre-operative assessment (known as a 'pre-op') if required. If a pre-op is not required, you will be sent an Admission Letter.

If you are asked to attend a pre-op, you will be asked questions about your health, medical history and home circumstances. Some tests may also be carried out at this point.

Following the Pre-operative Assessment

Once you have had your pre-op, a date for your procedure will be identified and a member of our team will contact you about your availability to attend.

Once a date has been agreed, you will receive an Admission Pack with the following:

- an Admission Letter
- COVID-19 information
- a leaflet on your procedure.

Prior to surgery

Under new arrangements, three days prior to your procedure, you will be contacted by telephone by a member of NHS staff who will ask you some screening questions to ensure you do not have symptoms, or are at particular risk of having contracted, COVID-19.

Following that, another member of staff will also contact you to arrange a test for COVID-19, which will be carried out 24-48 hours in advance of your procedure. This is a nasal swab test. You will be informed of the swab result as soon as we know what that is.

If the test is negative, then surgery will proceed as planned. If the test is positive, then your surgery will be postponed for at least two weeks, or for 10 days from the onset of symptoms, during which time you should self isolate.

All members of your household (and social bubble) must also self isolate for this period.

Attending the hospital or other healthcare premises

New arrangements in place will mean that you will be asked to hand sanitise on entering healthcare premises, and hand sanitise and wear a mask when entering any clinical areas.

On attending the hospital, you will be asked a number of questions before you will be permitted entry. This is to ensure you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and that you have not been in contact with anyone who could be considered a risk.

We would ask that you carefully check appointment letters for the time of your appointment and attend as close to that time as possible.

We also ask that you attend alone, if possible.

You may notice that staff will be wearing additional Personal Protective Equipment that they did not previously wear. This is a precautionary measure to protect both you and our staff.

Further help and information

We understand that this is a concerning time for you as a patient, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have. Contact details for further information can be found in your Admission Pack.

We are listening - how did we do?

We welcome your feedback, as it helps us evaluate the services we provide. If you would like to tell us about your experience:

- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 708069 or 07814 071868 Monday-Friday between 9am-5.30pm.

Disclaimer

The content of this factsheet is intended to augment, not replace, information provided by your clinician. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Reading this information does not create or replace a doctor-patient relationship or consultation. If required, please contact your doctor or other health care provider to assist you to interpret any of this information, or in applying the information to your individual needs.