

NCCP guidance for Medical Professionals on the management of patients referred to the Rapid Access Prostate Clinics in response to the current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

This document relates to patients who do not have COVID-19 or are not suspected of having COVID-19.

Current events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are challenging and all public health bodies are placing the safety of patients, staff and communities first in all decisions.

This is an evolving situation. This advice is based on current information, it is additional to the advice of the NPHET, the HSE and the DoH, and will be updated as necessary.

The NCCP acknowledges that each hospital is working under individual constraints, including staff and infrastructure, and as a result will implement this advice based on their own unique circumstances.

The purpose of this advice is to maximise the safety of patients and make the best use of HSE resources, while protecting staff from infection. It will also enable services to match the capacity for cancer care to patient needs if services become limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any clinician seeking to apply or consult these documents is expected to use independent medical judgement in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any patient's care or treatment.

1 NPHET, HSE and DoH advice

Hospitals will operate under the overarching advice of the National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET), the HSE and the DoH. Information is available at:

- HSE HPSC - <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/>
- HSE Coronavirus (COVID-19) - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>
- DoH Coronavirus (COVID-19) - <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>
- Ireland's National Action Plan in response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) - <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/>

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Department:

Prostate Guideline
Development
Group/Leads Group

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2 Purpose

The purpose of this guidance is to provide guidance for medical professionals on the management of patients referred to the Rapid Access Prostate Clinics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3 Patients referred to Rapid Access Prostate Clinics

All referrals to the Rapid Access Prostate Clinics will be accepted.

4 Triage

All patient referrals will be triaged by the consultant urologist. Patients will be triaged into two categories:

- 1) Urgent
- 2) Non urgent

5 Patients triaged as urgent by the consultant urologist

All patients that are triaged as urgent will be offered an appointment at the Rapid Access Prostate Clinic. Co-morbidities and age should be considered when offering an appointment.

6 Patients triaged as non urgent by the consultant urologist

All patients that are triaged as non urgent will be put on a waiting list. The waiting list should be reviewed every month.

7 Staff and capacity

Clinic staff should be left in place to support the running of the service.

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