

# NCCP patient pathway for admission for scheduled cancer surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic

**2 weeks prior to admission for cancer surgery**

- Patients should be advised the best way to minimise their risk of COVID-19 exposure is to cocoon for two weeks prior to surgery in line with public health advice
- As no test can rule out a COVID-19 infection, the patient should be given information on the importance of cocooning
- Patients should be advised to pay special attention to hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing advice
- The extent of cocooning should take into account the potential benefits and harms of COVID-19 infection and delaying surgery
- Patients should be asked to note any COVID-19 signs or symptoms in a diary
- Receipt of the vaccine (in either healthcare workers or their patients) does not eliminate the need to use appropriate PPE and to adhere to public health advice in relation to COVID-19



**Within 3 days prior to admission for cancer surgery**

**Hospital to contact the patient to confirm:**

- Does the patient have any signs or symptoms of COVID-19?
- Has the patient been identified as a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19?



All patients should have an RT-PCR COVID-19 test within 3 days prior to admission



**Virus detected on RT-PCR results**  
Patients should have surgery deferred



**Virus not detected on RT-PCR results**



**Decision to admit patients for cancer surgery**

Patients should not be admitted until they have received their RT-PCR results and the team have made a decision regarding surgery. The decision to proceed to surgery should take the following into account:

- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19,
- Close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19,
- RT-PCR results.

There is no test or tests that can rule out COVID-19 infection in asymptomatic patients.

If the patient has been identified as a close contact of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 consider deferring their surgery for 14 days unless it is deemed necessary that the surgery should proceed by the treating Consultant, considering the risk:benefit ratio of surgery.



**Admission**

- On admission the patient is screened for signs or symptoms of COVID-19
- Patients are required to wear a mask
- Any person accompanying the patient should wait outside if possible
- No children are permitted to accompany the patient

The patient will be admitted directly to the specialist planned care ward occupied only by patients who have similar pre-procedural planning, screening and testing



**Procedure**

Procedure takes place



**Following surgery**

Postoperative surveillance/ protocols should be in place to prevent and identify any postoperative infection