

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- **Can Clinical Manager/Administrative personnel refuse a patient treatment/surgery under any reason? And who makes a decision for denying treatment/surgery?**

Commencing and continuing with treatment or surgery is a clinical decision and clinical decisions are made depending on the risk and benefit to the patient. The benefits of treatment must always out way the risks. These decisions are made by the treating clinician.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment/surgery for refusing to do a PCR test?**

The risk of mortality is significantly increased in patients that have covid in the period before, during or immediately after surgery, therefore it is important that the patient's covid status is known so that a decision can be made in the patient's best interest. If delaying surgery carries a greater risk than proceeding surgery will proceed, IE cancer or an immediately life threatening condition

If the risk of delaying surgery is lower than the risk of proceeding with known or possible covid, it is in the patient's best interest to delay surgery.

Again this is a clinical decision and is made by the treating clinician.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not doing a PCR test?**

It is not possible to provide this information, however the decision would be made based on the patient's best interest and the decision would be that which carried least risk to the patient.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment or surgery for refusing to do a LFT test?**

The same principles apply as with a PCR. The risk of mortality is significantly increased in patients that have covid in the period before, during or immediately after surgery, therefore it is important that the patient's covid status is known so that a decision can be made in the patient's best interest. If delaying surgery carries a greater risk than proceeding surgery will proceed, IE cancer or an immediately life threatening condition

If the risk of delaying surgery is lower than the risk of proceeding with known or possible covid, it is in the patient's best interest to delay surgery.

Again this is a clinical decision and is made by the treating clinician.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not doing a LFT test?**

It is not possible to provide this information, however the decision would be made based on the patient's best interest and the decision would be that which carried least risk to the patient.

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment/surgery for refusing to wear a face mask?**

The hospital cannot refuse a patient treatment / surgery for refusing to wear a face mask, however as face masks are mandatory in all health care settings, unless exempt, staff are expected to encourage patients who visit outpatient areas and clinics to comply with this and this would extend to patients as they arrive at our Day Surgery Units. This is to protect our vulnerable service users.

Patients who have had surgery or are being cared for as an inpatient are not asked to wear a mask unless they are being transferred from one clinical area to another, this is again to protect our vulnerable patients.

Staff are expected to be understanding and compassionate when a patient or visitor declares they cannot wear a mask. When patients are unable to wear a mask or refuse, they are asked to socially distance from other patients to protect themselves and other patients.

Further information from NHS England can be found here;

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2021/07/nhs-patients-staff-and-visitors-must-continue-to-wear-face-coverings-in-healthcare-settings/>

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not wearing a face mask?**

This information is not available, though I can confirm no patients should have been refused treatment or surgery for not wearing a face mask

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient treatment or surgery for not wearing a visor?**

The same principles as a face mask apply. If a patient cannot wear a face mask a visor may be offered but again treatment cannot be withheld.

- **How many patients have been refused treatment or surgery for not wearing a visor?**

This information is not available, though I can confirm no patients should have been refused treatment or surgery for not wearing a visor

- **What is the difference between a face mask and a visor?**

A medical face mask provides the wearer with protection from inhaling aerosols and also protects others from the wearer's aerosols. If there are two people and both are wearing medical masks, there is almost a zero risk of infection from one to the other.

A visor does not provide as much protection from inhaling aerosols and it does not provide as much protection to others from aerosols, though it does reduce the risk of infection through the eyes.

Wearing a visor restricts the movement of aerosols but not as much as a face mask. Although not as effective on its own when compared to a face mask it does offer some protection to the wearer and others.

Wearing both a visor and a mask will provide greater protection to the wearer as the respiratory tract and eyes are protected.

Further information from NHS England can be found here;

https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2020/09/4A-COVID_Info_Sheet_Masks_and_Face_Coverings_V1.0.pdf

- **Can the hospital refuse a patient denial for a chaperone? And if so, Why? What is the protocol for access for a chaperone?**

The hospital provides chaperones and these are always available. The Trust has a chaperone policy and this is available at the following link

<https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/document/patps2/>

- **If a patient is staying in hospital, can the hospital deny visitation for this patient? If so, Why? What is the protocol for a patient to seek visitation rights?**

The Trust visiting has been dictated by NHS England and Covid restrictions. This is regularly reviewed and updated. When updated this is shared with the public through our media outlets. Visiting is only restricted or prevented in the best interest of the patients that are cared for in the Trust.

Some patients need a visitor due to a disability or other clinical need due such as breaking bad news or being end of life and this is permitted.

Outside of covid restrictions visitors are at the patient's discretion.

- **What are the protocols whereby the patient is refused treatment or surgery, who makes these decisions? And what happens next?**

The decision to offer treatment or proceed is a clinical decision and made in the patients best interest.

Some treatments are considered cosmetic or of no clinical value, in these instances funding must be agreed by the CCG regardless of the clinicians decision.

- **Every time a patient is referred to your hospital, how much money does the hospital receive for that patient?**

This information is not available as we no longer receive funding on a per patient basis

The questions above should include all Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching NHS Trust Hospitals. Would you also send the policies and procedures you have in place for face covering, visor, PCR testing, Lateral Flow Testing. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

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Information regarding surgery and endoscopic procedures can be found here;

<https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/planned-surgery-covid-19-pandemic/>