

Ref: **Patient's NHS number**

Acute trust name

Patient's name

Team/Directorate

Address 1

Address 1

Address 2

Address 2

Address 3

Address 3

Address 4

Postcode

Postcode

Telephone

Private and confidential

Email address

Date

Dear **[Patient's name]**

Thank you for speaking with me on the telephone today. I am very sorry that your treatment has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We discussed how you are coping with your symptoms and the things you can do to help with them. These include

We also compared the risks and benefits of surgery with other treatments.

We agreed [Delete as appropriate]

- *that an operation...*
- *to not make a decision about surgery at the moment*
- *that not going ahead with the operation is the best option for you.*

Before you can come in for your operation, you will need to self-isolate for [x] days. You will also need to have a test for COVID-19, and the surgery can only go ahead if the test shows you don't have it.

As we discussed, the COVID-19 pandemic does slightly raise the risk of surgery, but there is nothing else that increases the risk.

[If going ahead and additional risk factors.....]

The measures we take to prevent infection in hospital are effective. The risk of catching COVID-19 in hospital is low.

As we discussed, the COVID-19 pandemic does slightly raise the risk of surgery. We discussed that you have the following risk factors

To get yourself as fit as possible for surgery, it is important that you try to

- lose weight
- do more physical activity
- stop smoking
- reduce any drinking of alcohol.

This will also help if you ever catch COVID-19 so now is a good time to make sure you are as well as possible. With this letter is a list of services that can help you.

[If postponing.....]

One of my team will contact you in [x] months. If you get worse before then, please telephone my secretary on [contact number].

Your doctor will be sent a copy of this letter.

[If not going ahead.....]

You are free to change your mind for up to 28 days and if you do, please telephone xxxxx or email xxxxx. Beyond that, if you get worse and want to reconsider an operation, please discuss this with your GP and they will refer you back if needed.

[All who are having surgery.....]

We will contact you by phone before you come into hospital to check you are well enough to have the operation We will go through the risks and benefits again and ask you to sign the form giving your consent to have surgery. You can change your mind at any time after that.

When we contact you, we will discuss isolation and COVID 19 testing. We will tell you when and where you need to go for the test, talk about your admission to hospital, and discuss any help you might need to take the test.

Your doctor will be sent a copy of this letter.