

## Patient information factsheet

# If your operation is cancelled or postponed

We have given you this factsheet because your elective operation has been cancelled or postponed. We understand that this is disappointing. Your clinical team will book in a new date for your operation as soon as possible.

This factsheet explains why some operations are cancelled or postponed, and suggests questions for you to ask before you leave.

### Why was my operation cancelled or postponed?

A member of the team will talk with you and explain why your individual operation has been cancelled or postponed.

Operations may be cancelled or postponed for different reasons:

#### Clinical reasons

- When you arrive, your clinical team may decide that you are not well enough to have your operation. You might need to have further tests or investigations.
- Before your operation, you will have some routine tests to check for infections or illnesses. When your doctor receives the results of your tests, they may decide to postpone your operation to make sure that you are fully fit. For example, if your COVID 19 lateral flow test result is positive (this means you have COVID 19), we may have to cancel your operation even if you do not have any symptoms.

#### Non-clinical reasons

Sometimes we need to cancel or postpone operations for non-clinical reasons.

### Questions to ask

Before you go home, make sure you know the answers to the following questions. There is space below each question to make notes.

1. When is my new operation date?

2. If my new operation date is not yet confirmed, when will a member of the team contact me? This should be within two to three working days.

3. What should I do about the medications that I stopped or started before my operation?

4. Who should I call if I have questions after I go home?

If you do not know the answers to these questions and the information is not on your discharge paperwork (documents about your care that we give you before you leave), please speak to the nurse in charge of the ward before you go home.

If you are a patient at one of our hospitals and need this document translated, or in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **0800 484 0135** or email **patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk**

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