

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Gastroenterology– Waiting well

Introduction

Gastroenterology is the branch of medicine that looks at diseases of the oesophagus (gullet), stomach, small and large intestines (bowel), liver, gallbladder and pancreas. A gastroenterologist is a doctor specialising in the field of medicine which involves these closely related organs. A large component of Gastroenterology is chronic disease, much of which requires long term monitoring and active treatment.

Guidance for Patients

Whilst you are waiting for your appointment it is a good idea to keep track of your symptoms, when you experience them and what sorts of things seem to make them better or worse, as your doctor will ask you about this. You might like to keep a symptom journal so that you have a good record of this. Your doctor will also ask you about your medical history, family history of similar issues and any medication you are taking, so it is a good idea to think about this before your appointment.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

GP surgeries are still open

Please contact your GP surgery for advice if you feel your condition is deteriorating.

GP surgeries are still open but may be working differently to how they did before the COVID-19 pandemic. GP practices are utilising telephone, online and video consultations. Face-to-face appointments are still being given to those who need it.

GP surgeries can contact the Rheumatology department for advice if needed.

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.