

First Outpatient Appointment – Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you are able to support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Please read the following information in conjunction with the staying healthy guidance and also the clinical guidelines for your specific procedure/condition.

Gastroenterology is the branch of medicine focused on the digestive system and its disorders.

Diseases affecting the gastrointestinal tract, which include the organs from mouth into anus, along the alimentary canal, are the focus of our specialty. Physicians practicing in this field are called gastroenterologists. Physicians that practice in the field of Hepatology are called hepatologist's.

Guidance for Patients

Gastroenterology

Gastroenterology at UHCW is a dynamic and innovative department delivering gastroenterology, hepatology, nutrition and endoscopy services.

The gastroenterology department is led by a team of 15 consultants who deliver specialized care for a wide range of gastroenterological conditions.

Our hepatology service is led by a team of four consultants, supported by specialist nurses, specialist registrars and junior doctors.

We provide seven-day emergency cover for gastroenterology inpatients and 24 hour endoscopy cover for upper gastrointestinal bleeding.

Research is strongly supported within the department and patients may be invited to participate in studies. If you are interested in taking part, please ask if there are any studies suitable for you.

Endoscopy

Our endoscopy department is JAG accredited and offers diagnostic gastroscopy and colonoscopy alongside a range of more complex procedures.

The Endoscopy services are based at University Hospital, Coventry and The Hospital of St Cross, Rugby. The Endoscopy Department provides a 24/7 acute gastrointestinal bleeding service supported by a gastroenterologist and nurse team. Our Endoscopy Unit is a training, teaching and research active department which is fully equipped with video endoscopes and associated equipment.

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Hepatology

Hepatology, or hepatobiliary medicine, encompasses the study of the liver, pancreas, and biliary tree, and is traditionally considered a sub-specialty of gastroenterology, while proctology encompasses disorders of the anus, rectum, and colon and is considered a sub-specialty of general surgery.

Please read the following information in conjunction with the staying healthy guidance and also the clinical guidelines for your specific procedure/condition.

While waiting for treatment

There are a number of things a pain patient can do.

1. Medications- simple analgesics like Paracetamol, Ibuprofen will help most pain. Sometimes, stronger pain killers like codeine may help. Your GP may be able to prescribe other medications if needed.
2. There are a number of resources available which can provide you with skills and healthy tips to self-manage pain.

<https://www.paintoolkit.org>

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If your health is deteriorating, you need to be seen by your GP for review and further assessment and management.

Contact Us

For out of hours emergencies, contact our Accident & Emergency team on 02476 964000

Outpatient booking centre: 0800 252 060

Endoscopy bookings: 02476 96 6755

IBD Nurse Helpline: 02476 96 6075

Hepatology Nurse Helpline: 02476 967123

Nutrition team: 02476 96 6074

Ward 32: 02476 67831