

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide 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 to help you stay healthy while waiting to attend hospital and should be read in conjunction with the speciality level guidance appropriate for your condition.

Take Your Medication

Continue to take your medication as prescribed. If you need to stop any medication prior to your operation you will be advised of this when contacted and given a date for surgery

Keep Moving

It is important to stay healthy whilst waiting for your procedure. Being active can improve your quality of life and reduce depression, stress and anxiety. It can also help you to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, sleep better and live longer so, unless you have been told otherwise by a clinician, it is important to stay active and keep moving. We recognise that your condition may make activity much more difficult, but try and keep moving as much as you can.

Warwickshire County Council has gathered together some of the local services available for Warwickshire residents, as well as their outdoor gyms and leisure centres.

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/keepingactive

Improve Your Health

Healthy changes start with little changes. If you want to lose weight, get active or quit smoking, the Better Health website will help you with lots of free tools and support.

[Better Health – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

Stopping smoking will help you breathe more easily, give you more energy and feel less stressed.

[Quit4Good homepage – quit4good \(warwickshire.gov.uk\)](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/quit4good)

Walk instead of driving, cycle instead of taking the bus. Choose how you move and find out more about Active Travel.

[Active Travel – choose how you move – Warwickshire County Council](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/active-travel)

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Learn how to eat well and maintain a healthy weight. [The Eatwell Guide – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Good Mental Health

Don't neglect your mental health while you are focusing on your physical health. The Every Mind matters – NHS (www.nhs.uk) website is full of different ways to improve your mental wellbeing, from expert advice to tools to work out what support you need.

Improving access to psychological therapies (IAPT) can support you if you are stressed, anxious, low in mood or depressed and where this affecting you doing everyday things, like working and going out. Speak to you or doctor about how you can contact these services. IAPT can work with people who are aged 16 and over, who are registered with a doctor in Coventry, Warwickshire or Solihull, and who are not already under the care of a specialist mental health service.

There are also audio self-help guides entitled "Don't Panic" which can be downloaded free to help you to deal with panic attacks, stress, anger, social anxiety, negative thinking and worry.

If you feel you are having a mental health crisis in general it is a good idea to speak to your doctor in the first instance about your mental health.

In an emergency, if your doctor's surgery is closed, you can contact Mental health matters, 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day on 0800 616 171.