**COVID-19: Information for Women Preoperatively**

You have been scheduled for an operation and you have agreed to come in for surgery. Covid-19 is likely to be around for some time and so there are number of specific points that you need to be aware of. They are not meant to scare or upset you or put you off surgery but to make sure you are fully informed before you are admitted to hospital. Hopefully these will have already been discussed with you by your surgeon.

You need to understand that:

* Whilst the hospital strives to provide surgery in the safest manner possible with patients and staff being monitored and tested for Covid-19, we cannot guarantee that the hospital is coronavirus-free; There may also be emergency patients admitted who have not been able to self-isolate.
* Despite all precautions and social distancing measures, coming into hospital – even if for just a day case procedure - might increase your risk of catching Covid-19;
* Catching Covid-19 whilst in hospital can make you seriously ill, delay your recovery and can carry significant risks to you and your health;
* Your operation might not be done by the doctors you have been seeing so far, but your surgeon will be suitably trained to perform your surgery;
* If you require critical care (ITU or HDU) you might end up having to be transferred to another hospital;
* You might not be allowed any visitors during your hospital stay;
* You will have to self-isolate for up to 14 days (depending on your hospital) before your procedure;
* It is advisable to maintain ‘shielding’ whilst you are recovering from your surgery as whilst recovering from surgery you may be more at risk of Covid-19.
* You will need a pre-operative coronavirus test before your procedure. Attending for this and pre-assessment then returning straight home is allowed during self-isolation. If your test comes back positive your surgery will be deferred until you have recovered and a test is negative;
* You will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm that you understand all of this when you come in for surgery.