

## **ADVICE TO STROKE PATIENTS** **IN VIEW OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

Due to restrictions arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, we are changing the delivery of our services with the aim of reducing contact with each other and the risk of Covid-19 and preventing hospital admissions. Our focus, in this challenging time, is to provide services where the need is highest and ensure accurate monitoring of those services we are not able to provide to minimise the effect of this on people affected by stroke.

With immediate effect:-

1. All Stroke Review Outpatient Clinics will be delivered remotely. Your appointment time will still stand and you will be contacted by Gillian Horsey (Lead Nurse for Stroke) via telephone in your home number. If you are not going to be present or require contact on a different number please advise us of the same.
2. All home visits provided by Gillian Horsey will also be conducted by telephone. These may not be at the prearranged time and she will contact you.
3. Those who require to be seen in clinic will be brought into a special clinic, depending on clinic space availability.
4. Any medication concerns should be addressed to your primary care provider providing it is urgent.
5. Clinics led by Dr J Thomas, consultant physician, will be reduced in numbers. All follow-up patients are contacted by telephone on the day of their appointment and should not come into the hospital. New patients are seen if their medical condition needs urgent attention. If you are newly referred to Dr Thomas' clinic and have not received a call to cancel your visit, kindly attend the clinic as instructed. In exceptional circumstances, a GP can request a home visit which will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity dependent on hospital emergencies.

In the subsequent weeks:

- The hyper acute stroke service will reduce to 7.30am – 8pm seven days a week.
- Non disabling strokes and TIAs will be managed on an outpatient basis unless unwell and requiring hospital admission.
- The Lead Nurse for stroke will be available once a week on a Wednesday to answer any questions or concerns 650953 / gillian.horsey@gov.im

### **Risk for stroke survivors from Covid 19**

People who have had a stroke don't have a greater risk of catching Covid-19 than anyone else. However, they do have an increased risk of severe illness if they get Covid-19.

Patients with stroke which has affected their swallowing or breathing muscles are considered to be at increased risk from COVID-19. We recommend self-isolation for these people.

People who have had a stroke who are over the age of 70 or who have been identified as being in an at risk category should self-isolate as per government guidance <https://www.gov.im/categories/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We understand this is an anxious time for people affected by stroke. Following government advice, you should continue with social isolation, regular hand hygiene and **stay at home**.

If you require any help or support you can contact the stroke association on:

**[www.stroke.org.uk/news/coronavirus-covid-19-information-people-affected-stroke](http://www.stroke.org.uk/news/coronavirus-covid-19-information-people-affected-stroke)**

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