



**Isle of Man**  
Government

*Reilrys Ellan Vannin*

# Department of Health and Social Care

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*Rheynn Slaynt as Kiarail y Theay*

## **ADVICE ON PARKINSON'S SERVICE** **IN VIEW OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

The Isle of Man Parkinson's Service is a multidisciplinary service led by Consultant, Dr John Thomas and supported Dr Muhammad Zafar (Staff Grade), Sue Lawley (Parkinson's Nurse Specialist), Clare Collister (Occupational Therapist) and Graihagh Betteridge (Physiotherapist).

Due to restrictions arising from the Covid 19 pandemic, we are changing the delivery of our service to avoid people leaving their homes, unless it is extremely important.

With immediate effect:-

1. All regular Parkinson's outpatient clinics will be cancelled and instead, Sue Lawley will be contacting those patients who were due to attend the Parkinson's clinic by phone to find out how they are.
2. Those who require to be seen in clinic will be brought into a special clinic, depending on clinic space availability.
3. Any change in medication will be dealt with by faxing the prescriptions to pharmacy.
4. Anyone with problems related to Parkinson's, please phone Susan on 642676 and she will try and return your call.
5. You can also contact the Parkinson's Nurse via email on [susan.lawley@gov.im](mailto:susan.lawley@gov.im)
6. Only contact your GP with a Parkinson's related problem if it is urgent or you have had no reply from the Parkinson's nurse within 5 working days.
7. All routine therapy outpatient appointments and home visits are suspended for the Community Adult Therapy Team but should your function worsen or an urgent functional problem arises please contact Clare or Graihagh on 642511.

**Please be aware this advice may change depending on service capabilities.**

## Patients under the care of the Visiting Neurology Consultants:

For the foreseeable future, Dr Bracewell and Dr Pietkiewicz will not be able to visit the Island. All non-emergency neurology services at the Walton Centre and all its satellite sites (including Noble's) have been suspended.

If you have Parkinson's Disease or another form of parkinsonism and are under the care of Dr Bracewell or Dr Pietkiewicz, please contact Susan Lawley in the first instance if you require advice or support (as above). If required, Dr Bracewell, Dr Pietkiewicz (or the on call neurology consultant at the Walton Centre) will be happy to offer telephone advice to Dr Thomas and his team.

## **Advice from Parkinson's UK**

People with Parkinson's don't have a greater risk of catching coronavirus than anyone else. But they do have an increased risk of severe illness if they get coronavirus.

We understand this is an anxious time for people with Parkinson's and also people living with them. Following Government and NHS advice, you should continue with sensible precautions such as good hand hygiene and **staying at home**.

If you are caring for someone with Parkinson's, there are some simple steps that you can take to protect them and to reduce their risk at the current time. Ensure you follow advice on good hygiene such as:

- Wash your hands often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- Find out about different sources of support that could be used and access further advice on creating a contingency plan available from Carers UK.
- Look after your own wellbeing and physical health during this time. Further information on this is available on our website [www.parkinsons.org.uk](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk)