

NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME IN TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY



Mr David Moore, Clinical Lead; Mr Paddy Kenny, Clinical Lead; Ms Catherine Farrell, Programme Manager; Ms Niamh Keane, Project Manager

31 March 2020

Re: NCP T&O Surgery and Covid-19

As a follow on from the short guidance document on the website which is specific to trauma and orthopaedic surgery, we urge you to look at the guidance provided by the British Orthopaedic Association. This is constantly updated and available on the links below;

<https://www.boa.ac.uk/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-update-regarding-bo-a-activities-and-events.html>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/secondary-care/other-resources/specialty-guides/>

Exception to the Guidance for care of fragility fracture patients during COVID-19 pandemic:

The choice of implant remains the surgeon's choice.

In addition in the current situation - Hip fractures may be transferred to hospitals that are not front line COVID hospitals if and when it is deemed by the general hospitals that the patient would be better treated in the smaller hospital than the more resourced but more overwhelmed hospital.

Please pay particular attention to the guidance from New Zealand on Laminar Air Flow in Operating Theatres in the document COVID-19 – Evidence-Based Best Practice Guidelines Specific to Orthopaedic Surgeons.

The guidance will need to be adapted to local conditions and HSE/DOH Covid 19 general guidance. As the situation is constantly evolving the guidance may change, we will keep in constant communication with you and issue updates.

Please be aware that you can contact Niamh nkeane@rcsi.ie or Catherine Catherinefarrell@rcsi.ie at any stage if you have queries.

Yours sincerely,

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