

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Management of COVID patients for Elective Caesarean Section

For completion by SOP author: Version V1.3 2nd March 2022

Document Author(s): Douglas Morgan - Anaesthetics SpR

Document Reviewer(s): Cath Harris - Midwifery Manager Singleton Hospital (SH), Rhian Medwell-Theatre coordinator (SH), Nigel Jenkins - Obstetric Anaesthetics lead (SH), Martin Garry - Former obstetric anaesthetics lead (SH), Maxine Cummins - Infection Control Lead (SH), Lisa Nation -Theatre Lead (SH), Kerry Thompson- Service Manager (SH)

CONTENTS:

1. Introduction
2. Purpose
3. Scope
4. Abbreviations and definitions
5. Duties and responsibilities
6. Process
7. Version history log

1.INTRODUCTION:

The COVID-19 virus pandemic has impacted widely on the functioning of day to day operations within the NHS. In SH there has been significant progress made in producing an efficient Caesarean section list (CSL) in Main Theatre Complex (MTC), greatly aiding the overall delivery of obstetric care. However, COVID-19 has created a degree uncertainty in how these lists should operate, namely which patients could be managed in MTC and which could be managed in Central Delivery Suite Theatres (CDST). This is due in part to the complexity in establishing risk to staff and other patients given factors such as the timing of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing, Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) and the presence or absence of COVID-19 symptoms. There is a need for clarity as to where patients who have/have had COVID-19 should be managed, as ongoing inconsistency in patient selection will result in inefficiency and detrimentally effect overall patient care.

2.PURPOSE:

This document aims to provide clear guidance on where all patients affected by COVID-19 can safely be managed for CSL. This will cover PCR test status, when the test was completed, the implications of positive test time frames and if a patient is symptomatic or asymptomatic of COVID-19.

3.SCOPE:

The principles outlined in this document apply to:

- All obstetric patients in SH due for CSL.

4.ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS:

SH	Singleton Hospital
CSL	Caesarean Section List

PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction for detection of COVID-19 virus
MTC	Main Theatre Complex
CDS	Central Delivery Suite
CDST	Central Delivery Suite Theatres
LFT	Lateral Flow Test
Actively COVID +ve	Patient testing PCR/LFT positive within 14 days of surgery . Day 0 is first day of symptoms.
Previously COVID +ve	Patient testing PCR/LFT positive more than 14 days before surgery and less than 90 days ago . Day 0 is first day of symptoms.
Symptomatic	Has a persistent cough, fevers or change of smell or taste at time of admission
Asymptomatic	Has none of the above features of COVID

5.DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Anaesthetic, Midwifery and Theatre staff should respect the following consensus agreement that was formed through multiple consultations between these interested parties.

6.PROCESS:

The decision as to where to carry out surgery for CSL for patients affected by COVID will be made by the following criteria:

Patients can be managed in **MTC** if:

- Patients are asymptomatic and are PCR negative
- Patients are asymptomatic and are previously COVID +ve (see **Note 1** below)
- Patients are asymptomatic and are actively COVID +ve (see **Note 2** below)

Patients can be managed in **CDST** if:

- Patients are symptomatic for COVID-19 and are actively COVID +ve

Note 1: Patients with Previous COVID (within 90 days but longer than 14 days ago) do not require PCR testing on admission for surgery as this would likely be positive and will not affect the decision process.

Note 2: MT will recover patients in theatre 1 for 30 minutes then will send to CDS for ongoing management.

7.VERSION HISTORY LOGBOOK

20.12.2021 V1.0

21.12.2021 V1.1

22.12.2021 V1.2

02.03.2022 V1.3