

Patient screening questions – reducing the risk of transmission

Purpose: To minimise the risk of a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 attending the practice. Taking the actions below can help reduce the risk of cross-infection.

Ideally, patients should be assessed remotely to identify whether:

- Care and advice can be given using remote consultation
- Carers/household members can provide care and support with guidance
- A face-to-face appointment is clinically necessary.

If a patient needs a face-to-face appointment, then you should screen them to reduce the risk of a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 case visiting the practice.

Example questions to ask the patient might include:

1. Do you have a new, continuous cough? Yes No
2. Do you have a high temperature (37.8C or over)? Yes No
3. Do you have a loss **or** change to your sense of smell or taste? Yes No
4. Does anyone in your household have a new continuous cough; a high temperature; a loss or change in their sense of smell or taste? Yes No
5. Do you or anybody in your house have coronavirus? Yes No

If they answer YES to any of the above, you should advise the patient to self-isolate and follow official Covid-19 advice:

- England – [use the NHS111 online coronavirus service](#)
- Northern Ireland – [nidirect](#)
- Scotland – [use the Covid-19 self-help guide](#)
- Wales – [use the Covid-19 symptom checker](#)

If the patient has an urgent or emergency hearing-related or general health issue, you should follow local protocols – e.g. triage them to a local Covid-19 ENT service pathway.

Please note: This is based on the [current case definition of Covid-19](#). This could change with time, so we strongly recommend you keep this up to date. We will also update members if/when there are changes via a Covid-19 newsletter.