

This is the most difficult period in the history of the NHS. Surgeons face particular challenges. The combined Royal Colleges and gastrointestinal Surgical Societies (ACPGBI, ASGBI and AUGIS) have identified these challenges and wish to provide the following broad advice.

1. Vaccines

- NHS vaccine roll-out now includes:
- People aged 70 and over/clinically extremely vulnerable/care home residents/healthcare workers.
- This category could apply to your pre-op patients. Further information available at [GOV.UK JCVI advice](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-recommends-covid-19-vaccination-for-people-aged-70-and-over).
- Secondary priorities could include vaccination of those at increased risk of hospitalisation.
- Whilst patients awaiting major elective surgery are not specifically listed, vaccination makes sense as they are an easily identifiable group where the outcome of peri operative Covid infection may be devastating. The Colleges are awaiting a formal reply from the JCVI on vaccination in this group of patients.

2. Nosocomial infections

- There is evidence ([HSJ](#)) of increased spread of infection within the hospital environment, with 1:4 Covid cases probably caught by hospital inpatients admitted for other reasons.
- We emphasise the PHE recommendations for staff including testing, maintaining appropriate protective equipment, physical barriers where appropriate, social distancing and rigorous hand washing.

3. Elective Operating

- Where safe Covid-light pathways can be maintained, appropriate elective operating should be continued
- Prioritisation of these cases should be in line with [existing prioritisation guidelines](#)

4. Endoscopy

- Key strategies to ensure continuity of endoscopy services and safe patient care are detailed in the [updated endoscopy advice](#).

5. Training

- Every operation is a training opportunity.
- Redeployment of trainees should only take place after discussion between Directors of Medical Education and Schools

6. Well being

- It is essential that we all look after ourselves and our colleagues and continue to work as teams.

Teamwork will get us through

<p>Keep your patients safe</p>  <p>Consider pre op vaccination inline with JCVI advice</p>	<p>Keep Going</p> 	<p></p> <p>Keep training the future generation</p> <p>#TrainingEmergency #JCST</p>
<p>Keep Safe</p> <p>Prevent Nosocomial infections Hand Face Space</p> 	<p>Keep Operating</p>  <p>Prioritise appropriate surgery https://fssa.org.uk</p>	<p>Keep Scoping</p> <p>Follow guidance from JAG/BSG</p>  <p>https://www.thejag.org.uk/COVID-19</p>





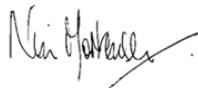








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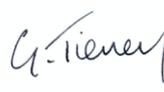
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