

Services	Update
Emergency Department	The RVH Emergency department service remains open to treat all urgent and emergency complaints. Access to the ED is via the Urgent Care Centre where patient needs will be assessed and managed. The Mater Hospital is currently only open to ambulances and GP-referred patients as part of BHSCT Covid-19 arrangements.
Cancer care	Chemotherapy, radiotherapy and haematology outpatients, assessments and ambulatory care continues. Where possible virtual appointments will be offered. Face-to-face will continue for those who require it. The live donor kidney transplant programme has been temporarily paused. We continue to perform deceased donor kidney transplants for 'highly-sensitised' patients for whom it is extremely difficult to find a suitable match.
Red flag & urgent Outpatients	Red flag and time-critical Outpatient services will continue to be undertaken with maximum use of telephone and virtual service where possible. Face-to-face appointments only where essential. For example, glaucoma and macular services require face to face delivery and this will continue. GUM and Family Planning urgent services continue.
Endoscopy	Limited colonoscopy, endoscopy and cystoscopy services remain in place for red flag patients.
Surgery	Emergency surgery continues. Elective surgery within BHSCT has ceased. Urgent cancer surgery is also currently suspended (from 7 January 2021). Trusts and the Health Board are working to prioritise patients for surgery to ensure that those with the highest need get treated first. When surgery is confirmed, and this may be in a different hospital or in an independent sector provider, there will be specific requirements for you to follow in preparation for surgery. BHSCT are also seeking additional surgical capacity in GB & RoI hospitals where possible.
Discharge from Hospital	In order to ensure that hospital beds are available for anyone who requires a hospital admission, we will be asking patients who are unable to return home when their hospital care is complete, to move into a temporary care home placement.
Renal Dialysis	Renal dialysis services continue in line with patient need.
Regional Fertility Centre	Treatment for Regional Fertility Centre patients who have already started their injections (IVF or ICSI cycles) or tablets (Frozen Embryo Transfer cycles) will continue as planned. However all other RFC patient appointments are paused until further notice.
Dental services	Red flag, urgent and emergency hospital and community dentistry continues.
Mental Health services	All inpatient services remain operational. Additional step-down facilities will continue to support individuals leaving the Inpatient Centre. The Home Treatment House continues to provide an appropriate alternative to hospital admission. Substitute prescribing will continue to embed new substitute medication preparations as these become available.
Community care teams	Community staff are working hard to maintain services to those most at risk and most vulnerable. Those who are most at risk will be identified and prioritised. These services include community health nursing, community social work, rehabilitation services and domiciliary care.
Domiciliary care	Domiciliary care services remain under considerable pressure which has been exacerbated by the increased focus on timely discharge from hospitals. We can expect delays on the availability of calls and the

	length of time of available calls. Some tasks may not be supported such as shopping, laundry and cleaning where families are able to assist or where alternative arrangements can be put in place. At all times, individual needs will be considered and those most at risk prioritised for access to services.
Day care services	The Trust will continue to prioritise day care services for those most at risk within the constraints of government regulations around social distancing.
Psychological services	Outpatient work continues using a mix of virtual and phone therapeutic delivery with face-to-face determined by risk assessment. Inpatient services continue to be delivered as normal with increased focus on supporting wards with Covid patients.
Learning Disability services	All day centres have reopened. Attendance numbers are reduced due to application of current government guidelines and protecting the health and wellbeing of complex and vulnerable service users and staff. As we were unable to operate the Community Day Services in the Chichester Library and the Whiterock Community Centre, new premises were sourced in conjunction with voluntary sector partners and Community Day Services (CDS) opened in a new location at the Pod @Cityside.
Children's Community services	Children's community services continue to be provided, with virtual contact mainly and face to face where essential. Health Visiting will continue to offer new baby visits, pre-school immunisations and targeted visits based on assessed need and level of risk. The school vaccination programme has been suspended for a six week period. All contact between children in care and their families will be virtual except in exceptional circumstances.
Screening	Breast, abdominal aortic aneurism (AAA) and diabetic eye screening programme (DESP) continue for high risk patients
Allied Health Professional Services	Urgent assessment and treatments will continue across Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Dietetics and Podiatry in-patient and outpatient services. AHP Services for vulnerable children within Special Schools will continue.
Phlebotomy Centre	During Covid-19, to enable patients to have their bloods taken in advance of virtual outpatient appointments, a Phlebotomy Centre is in place in Musgrave Park Hospital grounds. Please ensure you attend for this important appointment. Alternative arrangements can be made by contacting the helpline number provided on your appointment letter.