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Coronavirus

Important visiting restrictions in hospital

To help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection, we have changed visiting arrangements for our patients.

Given the particular risks from Coronavirus, hospitals and other providers have to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of patients and staff. People with underlying health problems are at particular risk, which is why hospital environments and care homes need to take particular care.

F**rom 24 March 2020 we will be stopping all visiting to our hospitals, except for:**

- **end of life (where COVID-19 is not a factor)**
- **children and neonatal unit** – 1 parent/carer at any one time
- **maternity** – 1 birth partner only.

This is one of the hardest decisions we have had to make and we fully appreciate that this will be extremely hard for patients and their families, but we have to keep all the patients we care for and our staff as safe as we possibly can.

These are exceptional measures for exceptional times. As the COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, we may make further changes to our precautions. We are continuously reviewing the situation, and will reduce these restrictions when national guidance confirms it is safe to do so.

A reminder for those who are permitted to visit:

Do not visit any health and care settings if you are unwell, especially if you:

- have a high temperature or a new, persistent cough or
- are vulnerable as a result of your medication or a chronic illness or
- are over 70 years of age.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation at this very difficult time.

Please contact the ward before you set out, to confirm your visit can go ahead.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252793