Consent to Elective Bariatric Surgery
During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Bariatric Surgery is extremely safe with a mortality of between 1 in 1000 and 1 in 1,400 procedures, but we do not know how safe this kind of surgery will be during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic.

Coming into a hospital environment for surgery (even though your surgery will take place in a hospital designated as a non-acute, ‘cold’ or low-risk site) carries an inherent risk of contracting COVID-19 and although we can try to minimise that risk, we cannot take it away completely. There is also a risk of you contracting COVID-19 whilst you are recovering from your surgery at home.

We know that people with severe and complex obesity who catch coronavirus are more likely to require ICU admission and are more likely to die from the virus.

We also know from studies looking at patients who underwent different kinds of surgery early in the COVID-19 pandemic that half of patients who contract COVID-19 virus either before, or within 30 days of surgery developed severe respiratory complications associated with a high mortality. This was mainly seen in patients aged over 70, males, and those undergoing emergency or cancer surgery. The risk in younger patients (under 50) undergoing planned surgery was much lower.

This means that you and your medical team need to do everything we can to reduce the risk of you contracting the virus in the period before, during or after surgery.

For your own safety this protocol must be strictly adhered to:

1. You **must** self-isolate (shield) at home with your family for 14 days before the operation.
2. You **must** have a throat swab or other COVID-19 screen at the hospital 72 hours before surgery (this can be done at the same time as your routine pre-op admission blood tests).
3. You **must** self-isolate (shield) at home with your family for 14 days after you are discharged from hospital.

You should be aware that the pandemic has changed normal day-to-day hospitals care in ways which are likely to alter your inpatient experience and that the availability of healthcare resources might be impacted by the pandemic.
Please read the following statements carefully and only sign the document if you are happy that you fully understand the contents of this document and consent to undergoing bariatric surgery whilst there remains a material risk of you contracting COVID-19 before, during or after surgery.

- I have read the information overleaf about the risks (known and unknown) associated with undergoing elective bariatric surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic and the safeguards that I must undertake to minimise the risk of me contracting COVID-19 before, during or after my surgery.

- I acknowledge that despite the safeguards instituted to minimise infection, there is still a risk that performing this elective surgery, and the care associated with it, may result in my becoming infected with coronavirus. Such infection could further result in severe respiratory or other organ failure, intensive care admission or avoidable death (had I decided not to undergo routine planned bariatric surgery at the present time).

- I understand that even if I have been tested for COVID-19 and received a negative test result, the tests in some cases may fail to detect the virus or I may have contracted COVID after the test. I understand that, if I have a COVID-19 infection (even if I do not have any symptoms of the disease), proceeding with this elective surgery can lead to a higher chance of complications and death.

- As well as the risks associated with the surgery itself, I understand that contracting COVID-19 may cause additional risks, some or many of which may not be known at this time.

- I understand that possible exposure to COVID-19 before, during and after my surgery may result in the following: a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, extended quarantine/self-isolation, additional tests, hospitalisation that may require medical therapy, intensive care treatment, possible need for intubation/ventilator and other organ support, short term or long term intubation, other serious long-term complications both physical and psychological and the risk of death.

- I have been given the option to defer my surgery to a later date and I understand that whilst I am choosing to undergo bariatric surgery to improve my health, it is not urgent or essential that I undergo this treatment at this moment in time.

Patient Name:
Signature:
Date:

Doctor’s Name
Signature:
Date: