

COVID-19 additional referral guidance

During COVID-19 we are all trying to keep our patients and staff safe from transmission of the Virus. This means we have to look at a balance between risk and benefits.

FAQ:

1. When will TVVS restart vasectomies? TVVS will restart vasectomies in the beginning of June 2020.
2. When can clinicians re-start referring? You can refer now.
3. What is changing? How will TVVS ensure patient and clinician safety? We are minimising patient contact using video consultations etc. For a thorough explanation click here <https://vasectomy.me.uk/providing-vasectomies-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>
4. Any further referral guidance?

Initially and until further guidance has been released we recommend to **avoid referring patients in higher risk categories or at risk of prolonged clinician exposure**. The list below is for guidance only and may not be complete. There is always an individual assessment between need and risk. For example, if the patients partner had recently a termination there may be a good reason to refer a patient with even a slightly higher risk profile. Generally, however I advise caution in the below.

- a. Patients shielding with high risk of COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality
- b. Patients in the moderate risk group, particularly Diabetics, who are not well controlled, patients on immunosuppressants etc.
- c. Patients on blood thinning medication (Warfarin, DOACs, Aspirin) as operation likely prolonged and stay much longer
- d. Patients with a history of fainting (to avoid resuscitation type procedures)
- e. Patients with clotting disorders (i.e. van Willebrands) or other high surgical risks.

Please continue to use the **TVVS referral form** (as all the content in there still applies). The form is on **DXS**. It can also be downloaded in Word or as an EMIS template on for East Berkshire on <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/berkshire-east/cosmetic-and-other-surgeries-berkshire-east/> or for Buckinghamshire at <http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/buckinghamshire/cosmetic-other-surgeries-devices-screening-diagnostics-and-other-therapies-policy-statements/> . Just type "vasectomy" in the respective search field.

Dr Kittel, May 2020