

## Patient screening questions – reducing risk of transmission

**Purpose:** To minimise the risk of a suspect or confirmed case of Covid-19 attending the practice. Taking the actions below can help reduce the risk of cross-infection.

Ideally patients should be assessed remotely to identify if:

- Care and advice can be given using remote consultation
- Carers/household members can provide care and support with guidance
- A face-to-face appointment is clinically necessary.

**If a patient needs a face-to-face appointment**, then you should screen them to reduce the risk of a suspect or confirmed Covid-19 case visiting the practice.

Example questions to ask the patient might include:

1. Do you have a new, continuous cough? Yes No
2. Do you have a high temperature (37.8C or over)? Yes No
3. Do you have a loss **or** change to your sense of smell or taste? Yes No
4. Does anyone in your household have: a new continuous cough; a high temperature; a loss or change in their sense of smell or taste? Yes No
5. Do you or anybody in your house have coronavirus? Yes No

**If they answer YES to any of the above**, you should advise the patient to self-isolate and follow official NHS Covid-19 advice:

- England – [use the NHS111 online coronavirus service](#)
- Northern Ireland – [use the NHS online service or call NHS 111](#)
- Scotland – [Covid-19 self help guide](#)
- Wales – [use the Covid-19 symptom checker](#)

**If the patient has an urgent or emergency eye related or general health issue, then you should follow local protocols – e.g. triage them to a local Covid-19 ophthalmology service pathway.**