Emergency surgery referrals to Musgrove Park during COVID period

FAO: Primary care referrers.

Dear colleagues,

Some of you may be aware of the Emergency Surgery Ambulatory Clinic (ESAC) that started taking referrals from primary care around a month ago.

This service is intended to cater for ambulatory patients who are in need of emergent surgical assessment/treatment. Currently the service runs a next day appointment for these patients.

We are planning on significantly increasing the capacity in ESAC over the COVID period. We intend to offer a same day review whenever possible.

Referrals should be made as usual through Somerset Primary link or the on call junior doctor at MPH.

The referrer may be offered the option of a review in ESAC the following day or the same day. SPL are able to email through patient details and ensure patients have the appropriate information regarding how and when to get to the ESAC.

As this service is intended to run in daytime hours for as long as possible please make every effort to get your patients to the hospital as early as possible to allow appropriate investigations etc. to be carried out.

Currently, the majority of surgical referrals from primary care arrive in the hospital between around 4 and 7, please make every effort to ensure patients arrive as early as possible. Alternatively, start treatment on empirical grounds, if appropriate, to allow review the following day.

This service is an adult General Surgery service; Gynaecology, Urology, and Vascular referrals are not being changed.

We intend to make these changes from Monday 23rd March.

Best Wishes,

Matthew Mason

Consultant Upper GI surgeon and ESAC lead.