



Colorectal Green Pathway

Background

- The Health Board was the last to limit elective cancer surgery in the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A new “Green” pathway was created at Prince Philip Hospital (PPH) to restart services and designed to:
 - support local challenges, ACPGBI guidelines.
 - select appropriate patients for surgery.
 - cover all elective bowel cancer surgery across the Health Board.
 - ensure patients were protected and screened for COVID-19.
 - develop a safe service provision with safe surgical care outcomes.
 - and was agreed by the Colo Rectal (CR) Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) and approved at Bronze level.
- An audit was carried out to assess the pathway effectiveness for patients on Ward 7 at PPH from July – December 2020.

Key Outcomes

- All cancer and Irritable Bowel Disease (IBD) patients were discussed in Multi Disciplinary Team (MDT) prior to surgery.
- 100% compliance to the preoperative components of the pathway.
- 97.8% patients received a COVID-19 swab within the 4 days of admission.
- No breach of the pathway.
- Short term surgical outcomes were on par with pre COVID 19 results and national standards.
- The median Length of Stay (LOS) was marginally higher than expected.
- Lower rates of morbidity and mortality (30 day mortality was 0), 30 day readmission and return to theatre.
- No patient developed COVID-19 during admission.

Recommendation

To receive assurance that:

- Elective colorectal surgery has been successful during these challenging times.
- The new Green Pathway has both kept patients safe from COVID-19 and delivered better outcomes.
- With the application of vaccines and lower COVID-19 prevalence, that this will give us confidence to progress the treatment of urgent and subsequently routine patients in the near future.