

Western Health Theatre Checklist for Surgery in Patients with COVID-19 Precautions

Case booking

- ☐ Case booked on Simon with note "COVID-19" and call to nurse in-charge and anaesthetist in-charge to determine appropriate timing of case

Preparation

Theatre:

- ☐ COVID resource kit: COVID alert signs placed on theatre
- ☐ Essential surgical equipment confirmed and in theatre
- ☐ All non-essential equipment removed from theatre
- ☐ Airway equipment prepared and checked (as per airway management guideline)
- ☐ Prepare all anaesthetic drugs anticipated for case
- ☐ Ensure emergency anaesthetic drug box in theatre
- ☐ DDs from theatre drug cupboard dispensed before patient arrives (to avoid contamination of cupboard), further drugs if required to be sourced from PACU
- ☐ Clinical waste (yellow) bin and PPE doffing cognitive aid in theatre and scrub area
- ☐ Avoid theatre staff changes during case (unless essential)
- ☐ Theatre staffing (PPE donned including N95 for all staff):
 - Anaesthetic medical staff x2, Anaesthetic nurse
 - Scrub nurse, Scout nurse, Surgeon(s), Theatre tech

Anaesthetic room (Clean room):

- ☐ PPE and donning cognitive aids available
- ☐ Double gloving recommended for airway management and neuraxial techniques
- ☐ Equipment: Anaesthetic drug trolley, Monitoring slaved to anaesthetic room, Computer access to EMR
- ☐ Phone communication between theatre and anaesthetic room confirmed (with phone numbers)
- ☐ Anaesthetic room staffing (surgical mask + gloves if passing items into theatre)
 - Anaesthetic runner (preparation of further drugs, documentation, EMR)
 - Nursing runner (either in anaesthetic bay or set up room)

Patient transfer from ward to theatre

- ☐ Patient to be called for once all set up and equipment above is ready
- ☐ Confirm patient wearing surgical mask for transfer
- ☐ Patient transported directly into theatre
- ☐ Check in and pre-anaesthetic assessment done in theatre
- ☐ Patient bed left outside theatre door with COVID alert sign

Induction and surgical case

- ☐ Airway management as per intubation guidelines
- ☐ 2nd anaesthetist to stay in theatre until airway secured and patient clinically stable
- ☐ Minimise theatre door opening during case
- ☐ Specimen handling: double bag and take direct to pathology (not via chute)
- ☐ Emergency buzzer activation: all staff to enter via anaesthetic room (PPE donned), anaesthetic runner to direct which staff/equipment required to enter



End of case

- ☐ Patient bed brought into theatre prior to extubation
- ☐ Extubation (if indicated) and recovery in theatre
- ☐ Anaesthetic nurse to remain in theatre and recover patient
- ☐ Anaesthetist to remain in theatre until patient awake and adequately protecting airway
- ☐ Doffing PPE as per cognitive aid and placed in yellow clinical waste bins
 - Gown and gloves in theatre
 - Eye protection and mask in scrub area

Patient transfer back to ward

- ☐ Ward nurse to receive handover and collect patient from theatre
- ☐ Confirm patient wearing surgical mask for transfer

Sterilisation of equipment

- ☐ Notify CSSD in advance regarding COVID-19 precaution
- ☐ Transport equipment for sterilisation on covered trolley by usual route

Cleaning of theatre

- ☐ Terminal room cleaning as per Quick Reference Guide

Additional points specific to Caesarean Section:

- ☐ Non-English speaking patients to be consented early in admission for emergency LUCS with interpreter
- ☐ Early call to nurse in-charge, anaesthetist in-charge, paediatrician and transport to alert of COVID status
- ☐ In utero resuscitation measures on birth suite by Obstetrics (if indicated)
- ☐ Confirm early if mother has working epidural
- ☐ Support person to stay on birth suite and meet patient and newborn back on ward where appropriate
- ☐ Midwife receiving newborn (plus neonatology team if present) to be donned in PPE (including N95 mask)
- ☐ Newborn resuscitation to occur in theatre
- ☐ Patient bed to be escorted back to birth suite for cleaning, ward bed to be located for recovery of patient in theatre
- ☐ Skin to skin (if requested) to occur with mother wearing surgical mask
- ☐ Newborn to stay in theatre with mother until mother recovered, if both stable. Temperature in theatre to be increased for recovery period.

