

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 6164

Please reply to:
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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Mental health patients.

You asked:

- 1. Where mental health patients arriving at your Trust's hospital(s) or A&E department(s) are asked to wait before being assessed and whether this is in an area where patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are.*
- 2. Are waiting/assessment areas completely separate, with their own access and exit areas and other facilities including but not exclusively toilets?*
- 3. Are mental health patients given PPE if asked to walk through COVID-19 contaminated areas?*
- 4. What is the policy to determine whether an arriving mental health patient should be treated in a COVID-19 zone?*
- 5. Are patients arriving given any warning about the increased risk of COVID-19 infection from hospital? What measures are in place for patients who lack capacity to understand and consent to these warnings?*

Trust response:

- All patients including mental health patients are assessed at the front door by our First Contact Practitioners (FCPs) who are in place on both site 24/7. They assess every patient for COVID-19 through temperature checks, review of symptoms and any other information as deemed necessary by the clinician at the time. All patients are then given a face mask. They are then streamed to the appropriate waiting area, i.e. green if COVID not suspected or orange/ red if COVID suspected. PPE is worn appropriately according to Trust guidance in all areas at all times. If the patient arrives by ambulance, this same assessment is completed at the RAP, i.e. Rapid Access Point. There are 2 RAPs, i.e. green and orange. The patients are streamed appropriately. If a mental health

patient requires further input or support they would be taken to one of the Majors cubicles in A&E for further treatment/ assessment.

2. No they do not have their own access/ exit areas.
3. No patients are asked to walk through a COVID 19 red area unless they are being treated themselves in this area. Red areas are those with AGP i.e. aerosol generating procedures. No patients are asked to walk through an amber area (i.e.? COVID) unless they are being treated for this. This is the same for mental health patients.
4. See above
5. There are no further specific warnings given to any patients about a potential risk from COVID 19 as all areas have been risk assessed with appropriate measures in place. Patients are streamed to specific areas following assessment and clinical indications. Inpatients are reviewed on a daily basis at least.