

Date: 07/04/2020

Dear

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

We are aware that advice for our HPN patients has recently changed.

You should have already received guidance either from NHS England or your Homecare Company but to confirm, the most recent advice from NHS England is as follows:

Keeping yourself safe

The government is regularly updating its guidance on at-risk groups. In light of the latest information your hospital teams now consider that patients on HPN are a high risk group, as your child has significant organ impairment (Gastrointestinal) and a central venous access device in place. This advice is endorsed by the British Society of Gastroenterology and the British Society of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

It advises you to follow the guidance on 'shielding' stringently, as outlined by the government, and your child is strongly advised to stay at home and avoid any face-to-face contact outside the family for at least 12 weeks in the first instance.

Shielding means to strictly avoid contact with someone who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus infection and for your child not to leave your home, therefore not going out for shopping, leisure or travel. We appreciate that the governments' guidance to minimise all non-essential contact with other members of their household/family in shielded patients might not be possible in young children.

This can be challenging but the consensus is it is the best way to keep yourself/your child safe.

For advice on how to keep yourself as safe as possible please visit:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protectingextremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19



It is advisable to keep the number of carers who look after 'shielded' children to a minimum and for carers to also 'shield,' or stringently follow 'social distancing' if 'shielding' isn't possible.

Please can we remind you that in the event your child has a temperature of 38°C or above you should still follow normal procedure and bring your child to the Emergency department (ED) for blood cultures and antibiotics until a line infection can be ruled out. As a temperature is also a symptom of COVID-19 your child may be swabbed and isolated whilst we await results. If possible please ring ahead to Nutritional Care in working hours or to the Gastroenterology team to inform us that you are attending. Please do not delay bringing your child to ED.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss this information further, please contact Nutritional Care onor the Gastroenterology Team via the switchboard

Due to high volumes of calls the Nutritional Care voicemail may be on so please leave a message and the nursing team will return your call when possible.

Yours sincerely

