

## **COVID 19 Spinal Surgery Update for NHS and Private Patients in Cardiff and Vale / Cwm Taf - September 2020**

At the present time we have very limited capacity to perform elective spinal surgery (predominantly Category 2 and 3 work) in the NHS and Private Sectors. Consultants have been working very hard to triage the waiting lists to ensure that anything classed as **urgent** is appropriately managed. **Emergency** spinal surgery (Category 1) continues to be managed through the normal referral / emergency department pathways. (Please refer to the COVID Surgical Prioritisation Guidance June 2020 document)

Spinal injections can be offered for severe arm and leg pain. However, the facilities for performing these is very limited. We are not currently performing spinal injections for neck and low back pain.

We are starting to increase the number of face to face out patient consultations. However, in the majority of cases consultations will continue to be via remote access (Telephone / Teams / Attend Anywhere). In the NHS this will be arranged by the hospital. In the private sector patients can contact the Nuffield Hospital bookings office or my secretary to arrange an appointment.

Mr M J H McCarthy