

09 March 2022

Dear Colleagues and Service Planners,

Re: Position on the timing of surgery post Covid-19 infection in children

This is a joint statement from the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons (BAPS), the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (APAGBI) and the Children's Surgical Forum (CSF).

As stated in [RCPCH national guidance](#), 'Elective surgery in children should be deferred for **14 days** following the onset of symptoms or diagnosis with mild or asymptomatic Covid-19 infection'.

The Association of Anaesthetists (AoA) have recently published a [consensus statement](#) recommending that patients should avoid elective surgery within 7 weeks of infection. This consensus has been developed for adult patients and services should continue to use the [RCPCH guidance](#) for children and young people.

The consensus published by the AoA does not impact on the recommendations within the [RCPCH guidance](#) and we therefore continue to advise that for children, elective surgery can be performed **14 days** following the onset of symptoms or diagnosis with mild Covid-19 infection.

Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to tackle long waits for care and address backlogs built up during the Covid-19 pandemic. Planning services using [RCPCH guidance](#) for children and young people will support this effort.

Yours sincerely,

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