

COVID-19 Your Options for an Appointment

Premier Medical is pleased to be able to offer you Video consultations as an alternative to a face-to-face appointment. In either case we need you to confirm which you would prefer and you should have received a text or email asking you this. To help you we have set out below the key issues you should consider for each option. You can change your mind at any time prior to the appointment.

Video Consultation	Face to Face Consultation
<p>Face-to-face examinations may not be possible due to the current Government “lock-down” and Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic.</p> <p>Premier Medical is pleased to be able to offer you a secure video consultation with an accredited medical expert, as an alternative, in order that your claim isn’t delayed due to no fault of your own.</p> <p>What are the risks? Your legal representatives should have already explained that this is allowed under recent Ministry of Justice/ MedCo guidance, together with the possible implications of this process. For example, that there may be a higher risk of a compensator challenging the report and thus a further face-to-face report may be required later on.</p> <p>A recording of the examination may be made with your permission and when this happens, it will be held securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 until 30 days after settlement of your claim. If you require any further information on this please contact your legal representatives directly.</p> <p>What will I have to do? Ensure you have a suitable location which is private (not in your car) and follow the connection instructions issued with your appointment.</p>	<p>Where possible, Premier Medical can offer you a face-to-face consultation in line with Government guidelines</p> <p>As healthcare professionals, our experts have a good understanding of the COVID-19 risks and have confirmed to us that suitable measures are in place at their venues and that they are ready to see appropriate patients.</p> <p>What are the risks? The Government guidelines for those at high risk are as follows: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19</p> <p>Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new continuous cough • A high temperature • A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) <p>Who is ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’? Expert doctors in England have identified specific medical conditions that based on what we know about the virus so far; place someone at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Clinically extremely vulnerable people may include the following people. Disease severity, history or treatment levels will also affect who is in this group.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solid organ transplant recipients. 2. People with specific cancers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy ○ people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy ○ people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment

- people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary (COPD).
 4. People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell).
 5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
 6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.

People in this group should have been contacted to tell them they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

People at moderate risk (clinically vulnerable)

At this stage we would also advise patients at moderate risk to avoid face to face consultation:

People at moderate risk from coronavirus include people who:

- Are 70 or older
- Are pregnant
- Have a lung condition that's not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
- Have heart disease (such as heart failure)
- Have diabetes
- Have chronic kidney disease
- Have liver disease (such as hepatitis)
- Have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)
- Have a condition that means they are at high risk of getting infections
- Are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)
- Are very obese (a BMI of 40 or more)

If you or a member of your household fall into one of these groups, please advise us by calling 03456006738.

What will I have to do?

You should attend the venue taking necessary precautions. We would recommend you take with you a facemask and antibacterial wipes. The Expert and/or the venue will be able to provide further specific guidance of what to do on the day.