

BPC Covid-19 GUIDELINES 4

Opening for Clinical Work in the Consulting Room

Registrants' decisions about when and how to return to seeing patients in person will be made taking into account their own situation and individual factors. We have consulted with the leading insurance companies in the field - Howden and Towergate - that have stressed the importance of keeping up to date with government guidelines in respect of working practices. The BPC always recommends contacting insurers if in doubt. The following guidelines should be helpful when considering making the decision and how to proceed once patients return to the consulting room. BPC strongly recommends that government guidelines about the correct social distance [2 metres] are followed, and that registrants remain aware of the updated general government guidelines.

When patients return to the consulting room, ensure that:

- 1] The patient can gain access without needing to be greeted at the doorstep if it is not possible to remain 2 metres apart.
- 2] There is access to handwashing facilities on entering, with individual single use handtowels.
- 3] Hand sanitiser is provided wherever possible.
- 4] Where the patient's head will be, on the couch/chair, is 2 metres away from the clinician's seat, even if this means not sitting directly behind the patient.
- 5] All handles and relevant hard surfaces are disinfected between patients.
- 6] There are different coverings for the couch/chair which are changed between patients.
- 7] The coverings and handtowels are removed cautiously, placed in a plastic bag and washed after use.
- 8] The clinician's hands are washed after touching these.

Board

Professional Standards Committee

6.5.20