

Service details during the Covid-19 pandemic

The York Nuffield DEXA service re-opened at York Nuffield Health from August 2020.

In November 2020 there were around 900 DEXA patients on the waiting list since March 2020.

Working under COVID-19 conditions allows us to perform only a limited number of scans per day with the NHS using 75 % of DEXA scanning capacity. Currently we perform DEXA scans for 10 patients per day in chronological order to reduce the back log.

A new approach to use Royal Osteoporosis Society (ROS) guidelines to prioritise patients when referring for a DEXA scan will help us to deal with the DEXA back log and provide a DEXA scan according to the clinical urgency.

Below is a priority list for the ROS guidance as per the DEXA restoration toolkit:

PRIORITY 1: Book in the first instance	PRIORITY 2: Book after priority 1 patients
High fracture risk or fragility fracture	Baseline scans for AI, GnRH, liver disease, coeliac
High dose glucocorticoids	Surveillance scans in liver disease
Vertebral or hip fracture	Scans in those being treated for osteoporosis
New fracture on treatment	Research scans
Urgent treatment decision	

If there is a clinical urgency for a new DEXA scan it should be clearly specified on the referral. This scan will then be performed in front of a chronological queue.

If there is an outstanding referral for a DEXA scan (from March to November 2020) which now is being considered as urgent, please re-refer as an urgent DEXA scan or notify this change to the radiology booking team in York Nuffield hospital.

Many thanks for your help with this, Nuffield Radiology department DEXA service.

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