



## Response to COVID-19: Interim Screening for PTS Bookings

As we support healthcare providers with reinstating services for eligible patients, Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust will apply the following criteria for booking NHS-funded transport with our Patient Transport Service (PTS):

1. Where a patient lives in a nursing or residential home.
2. If patients do not have access to their own transport or are unable to travel with a household member and are:
  - Shielding as instructed by the government, or
  - Travelling for chemotherapy/radiotherapy/dialysis appointments, or
  - Receiving regular care in their home.

For patients who do not meet the criteria above, bookers will be reminded:

“At the moment, due to social distancing practices, PTS are conveying only one patient at a time. These steps significantly reduce capacity and limit the ability to provide transport for those most in need - those who are most at risk or vulnerable”.

The booker will then be asked:

- “Do you have a member of your household or, in line with government guidance, a friend or a close family member that can take you on this occasion?”
- “Can you confirm that you have a medical need for NHS-funded transport?”
- “Does your medical need require that you use NHS-funded transport on this occasion and would your medical need prevent you from making your own way by other means?”

**Please note:** Patients are now able to self-book their transport. Healthcare representatives making bookings on behalf of patients will also be asked these screening questions.

Patients who do not meet the screening questions will be referred within YAS for additional screening to further review their medical need and be signposted to alternative transport options within their area.

### Escorts

- Escorts cannot be booked online.
- Escorts can only be booked by calling the reservations team on 0300 330 2000.
- Escorts will **not** be allowed to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic unless the patient:
  - is under 18, or

- has been diagnosed with dementia or a learning disability which requires support from a carer, or
- requires 24 hour care.

**Escorts must not travel if they are suspected or confirmed of having COVID-19.**

### **COVID-19 Infection Status**

Finally, we need to identify the infection status of those travelling with us. Patients will be categorised as follows:

- No COVID-19 status (the patient is not and has not displayed any symptoms).
- The patient is self-isolating due to a member of their household having symptoms.
- The patient has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last two weeks but has not had a test (or is awaiting test results).
- The patient has been confirmed as having COVID-19 (received a positive test). If so:
  - Has it been more than seven days since the start of the symptoms?
  - Has the patient had a fever in the last 48 hours?

**To book a PTS journey for eligible patients, please call 0300 330 2000**

