Dear patient,

Due to the increasing pressures on the NHS caused by COVID-19(Novel Coronavirus), the local NHS needs to ensure that the maximum possible inpatient and critical care capacity is available in our hospitals to respond to this pressing demand.

This means that the local NHS has made the decision to postpone all non-essential outpatient appointments, planned procedures and operations until further notice, starting on 20 March 2020. We are expecting this to be for a period of at least three months.

An assessment has been made that it is clinically safe not to refer you at this time for

[xyz appointment/service].

Once the suspension of non-essential appointments and procedures has been withdrawn and normal services start to return, if your symptoms persist and remain unchanged then please contact the practice to seek a referral.

Please bear in mind you should only contact the practice in the meantime if your symptoms worsen or change, you develop new symptoms or you have further concerns about your health.

There may be symptoms specific to your condition that if they occur your GP would ask you to contact the practice.

[blank for GP to complete]

We appreciate that it is unwelcome news that we are currently not in a position to refer you. We would like to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to keep supporting you during this difficult time.

Kind regards,

[Contact from General Practice]