

RSTNCOVID Hand Therapy Survey

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we care for patients and deliver services. The British Association of Hand Therapy, with the support of the Reconstructive Surgery Trials Network, is conducting a survey to help learn from these unprecedented times.

The aim of this survey is to describe how services have been modified during the COVID-19 pandemic and identify those that might be adopted longer term. For the purposes of this survey, the pre-COVID period has been defined as prior to 23rd March and the COVID period as 23rd March to 1st June.

The results of the survey will be disseminated via the BAHT e-bulletin, a webinar, conference presentation and publication.

The survey was developed by a group of hand therapists and hand surgeons. It was piloted at four sites and amended in response to feedback. See the website for further details: <http://reconstructivesurgerytrials.net/covid-19/>

We ask that one therapist from each hand unit, in collaboration with colleagues, completes the survey. It might take up to 20 minutes to complete. A copy of the survey instrument is available on the website. It is worth reviewing this first to ensure you will have the answers available.

If you wish to be recognised as a PubMed cited collaborator or be interviewed, please add your name and email address.

Data protection statement

We will store your name and email address for the purposes of contacting you about the #RSTNCOVID survey and service evaluation. Your data will not be shared or used for other purposes. At the end of the study your details will be erased. You can withdraw at any point by emailing rstncovid@gmail.com. See the RSTN webpage for the privacy policy.

Your Information

Your full name

(First name, initials and surname as would appear
in a journal article)

Email address

Name of hospital

Name of NHS Trust

I would like to be recognised as a collaborator

 Yes NoI am happy to be contacted to conduct an interview
(no obligation) Yes NoI am happy to be contacted about future research
studies Yes No

General Information

Background of hand therapists at the hospital (tick all that apply)

- Occupational therapists who work solely in hand therapy
- Physiotherapists who work solely in hand therapy
- Occupational therapists whose caseload is not exclusively hand therapy
- Physiotherapists whose caseload is not exclusively hand therapy
- Therapy technicians or assistants

Background of hand surgeons at your hospital

- Plastic surgeons
- Orthopaedic surgeons
- Plastic and orthopaedic surgeons

Service Provision During COVID

Please tick the boxes below to indicate service provision (e.g. appointments) offered for different NEW patient groups DURING COVID-19: (choose n/a if you don't normally provide that service)

	All referrals given appointments as per usual process	Some cancelled/delayed & type of appt may have changed	Most cancelled/delayed and remote appts only provided	Nearly all cancelled/delayed	All cancelled/delayed	n/a
Adult hand elective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult hand trauma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paediatric hand elective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paediatric hand trauma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tick the boxes below to indicate service provision (e.g. appointments) offered for different FOLLOW-UP patient groups DURING COVID-19: (choose n/a if you don't normally provide that service)

	All referrals given appointments as per usual process	Some cancelled/delayed & type of appt may have changed	Most cancelled/delayed and remote appts only provided	Nearly all cancelled/delayed	All cancelled/delayed	n/a
Adult hand elective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult hand trauma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paediatric hand elective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paediatric hand trauma	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have any of the following affected the ability to deliver a service DURING COVID?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Very often	Always
Guidelines to reduce patient contact	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hospital resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff sickness (including isolation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff redeployment to other areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of PPE	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other factors affecting ability to deliver a service

Changes to Practice

Have there been any changes to the materials used for splinting during COVID?

Yes No

Please detail any changes below and why they were instigated.

Have there been any changes to protocols used for hand therapy during COVID?

Yes No
(e.g. major changes to the principles of the protocols used)

Please detail any changes below and why they were instigated.

Provision of PPE

During the peak COVID period, did your department experienced shortages of PPE? [click those that apply]

- No shortage
- Masks
- Visors
- Gloves
- Aprons or gowns
- Other

Other shortages of PPE

Does the department CURRENTLY have sufficient PPE to work safely?

- Yes, not limiting service provision
- Yes, with reduced service provision
- No

Elective Hand Therapy Service

How often were the following type of appointments used for NEW elective patients BEFORE COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planned face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How often were the following type of appointments used for NEW elective patients DURING COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planned face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Does your department have plans to change the availability of these elective appointment types longer term?

	Much higher	Higher	About the same	Lower	Much lower
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planned face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Did your hand therapy team take direct referrals from any source without surgical review for common elective hand conditions BEFORE COVID? (tick all that apply)

- No direct referrals accepted
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Cubital tunnel syndrome
- Ganglion cyst
- Trigger finger
- de Quervain's tenosynovitis
- Thumb base Osteoarthritis
- General hand Osteoarthritis
- Other

Other direct referrals accepted

Has this changed DURING COVID?

Yes No

How has this changed DURING COVID?

(e.g. stopped seeing, seeing wider group of patients, seeing different conditions)

Do you participate in a hand surgery MDT meeting?

- Yes, continued during COVID
- Yes, temporarily paused during COVID
- No

Trauma Hand Therapy Service: Appointments

Provision of DAY TIME (0900-1700) unplanned hand trauma appointments

	None	Some weekdays	Every weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Before COVID	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
During COVID	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After COVID *planned provision after 1st June	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Provision of OUT OF HOURS unplanned hand trauma appointments (weekdays after 1700 or anytime on weekends)

	None	Some weekdays	Every weekday	Saturday	Sunday
Before COVID	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
During COVID	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After COVID *planned provision after 1st June	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How often were the following type of appointments used for NEW trauma patients BEFORE COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Booked face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group classes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How often were the following type of appointments used for NEW trauma patients DURING COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Booked face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How often were the following type of appointments used for FOLLOW-UP of trauma patients BEFORE COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Booked face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Group classes

How often were the following type of appointments used for FOLLOW-UP of trauma patients DURING COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Booked face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Does your department have plans to change the availability of these trauma appointment types longer term?

	Much higher	Higher	About the same	Lower	Much lower
Same day face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Booked face-to-face	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Telephone	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Video	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home visits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Trauma Hand Therapy Service: Involvement in Services

Did you see injuries directly from any source without surgical review (either face-to-face or via virtual clinic) BEFORE COVID? Yes No

Has this changed DURING COVID? Yes No

Please describe any changes that occurred during COVID.

Are hand therapists located in the same clinic area as hand surgeons for trauma clinics?

	No	Rarely	Sometimes	Always
Before COVID	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
During COVID	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
After COVID *Planned provision after 1st June	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are hand therapists involved in virtual fracture clinics?

*Virtual fracture clinic = virtual triage of cases, without patient present and subsequent communication of management plan to patient

	Before COVID	During COVID	N/A
Involved in virtual fracture clinic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not involved in virtual fracture clinic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How do you run your virtual fracture clinics?

Are you collecting outcomes from patients you aren't seeing face to face? Yes No

What is your experience of collecting the outcomes of these patients and how are you doing this?

Patient Self Management and Care

Have you created new patient information for hand conditions during COVID?

Yes No

Which information did you provide to patients BEFORE COVID?

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Paper leaflets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information leaflets via email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information via text message	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generic web information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Custom web information from department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
App	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

App used

- Hand Therapy app (Chelsea)
 Core Hand app (Derby)
 Other

Other app

Other information provided to patients

Which information did you provide to patients DURING COVID?

	Always	Very often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Paper leaflets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information leaflets via email	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information via text message	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Generic web information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Custom web information from department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
App	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

App used

- Hand Therapy app (Chelsea)
 Core Hand app (Derby)
 Other

Other app

Other information provided to patients

Have you asked patients to self manage aspects of care that would usually require a face-to-face appointment before COVID (e.g. self removal of cast or k-wires, change of dressings)?

Yes No

Any comments on providing this self management advice.

Skills and Training

Has the department maintained its educational programme during COVID?

- Yes - educational programme same as planned pre-COVID
 Yes - with changes to format (e.g. virtual)
 Yes - with changes to content
 Yes - with changes to format and content
 Partly - reduced programme
 Partly - reduced programme with changes to format (e.g. virtual)
 Partly - reduced programme with changes to content
 Partly - with changes to format and content
 No - educational programme not continued during COVID

Have you used any of the following resources?

- Established web based training
 Live webinar based training
 Recordings of webinar based training
 None or other

Have any organisations or groups offered particularly useful webinars or training during COVID? (please list below)

Do you have a mini c-arm available in an outpatient setting?

- Yes, permanently
 Yes, during COVID
 Yes, on a need basis
 No

Are any therapists in your department trained to use the mini c-arm?

- Yes - to request x-rays
 Yes - to deliver x-rays
 Yes - to request and deliver x-rays
 No

Did the extended scope skills of your hand therapists change during COVID?

	Decreased	No change	Increased	N/A
Prescribing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nerve blocks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Manipulation of fractures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Deliver x-rays (c-arm)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requesting x-rays	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpret nerve conduction studies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dressings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The Final Word

What aspects of change have been a success?

What aspects of change have not worked so well?

What will be the biggest change post COVID?
