

# COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin

24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Details of new guidance and evidence relating to the response to COVID-19. Please check SaTH, NHS and Government guidance in conjunction with these resources where necessary.

## General

**Management of coexisting conditions in the context of COVID-19** [evidence summary from BMJ Best Practice]

Available [here](#). Last updated 18th June.

## Anaesthesia

**Updates and advice on drug usage in anaesthesia** [Royal College of Anaesthetists]

[The Royal College of Anaesthetists, the Association of Anaesthetists, the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Intensive Care Society worked with the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer at NHS England and his team to issue guidance on how to rationalise the use of drugs in anaesthesia and intensive care to manage the demand for key drugs.]

Available [here](#)

## BAME Communities

**Research and analysis: COVID-19: understanding the impact on BAME communities** [Public Health England]

[A summary of stakeholder insights into factors affecting the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, along with strategies for addressing inequalities. The report summarises requests for action, which have been used to inform a number of recommendations.]

Available [here](#)

## Cancer

**Second phase of NHS response to COVID-19 for cancer services: letter from Dame Cally Palmer and Professor Peter Johnson: 8 June 2020** [NHS England & NHS Improvement]

[Local systems and Cancer Alliances were asked to identify ring-fenced diagnostic and surgical capacity for cancer, so that referrals, diagnostics and treatment can be brought back to pre-pandemic levels at the earliest opportunity to minimise potential harm, and to reduce the scale of the post-pandemic surge in demand. Your work to do so should now be well advanced and in place across your Cancer Alliance. This letter sets out further guidance and support.]

Available [here](#)

## Cardiovascular Care

### **Clinical guide for the prevention, detection and management of thromboembolic disease in patients with COVID-19** [ICM Anaesthesia COVID-19]

[This document provides guidance on the prevention, diagnosis and management of VTE in patients with COVID-19 who are seen in hospital]

Available [here](#)

## Dermatology

### **Occupational Skin Disease during the Coronavirus Pandemic** [British Association of Dermatologists]

[Guidance from the British Society for Cutaneous Allergy and the British Association of Dermatologists]

Available [here](#)

## Dexamethasone

### **Dexamethasone in the treatment of COVID-19: Implementation and management of supply for treatment in hospitals** [ICM Anaesthesia COVID-19]

[Dexamethasone has been demonstrated to have a clear place in the management of hospitalised patients with COVID-19. Dexamethasone was not used in pregnant women. Clinicians should therefore consider dexamethasone for the management of hospitalised patients with COVID-19 who require oxygen or ventilation.]

Available [here](#)

### **Low-cost dexamethasone reduces death by up to one third in hospitalised patients with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19** [Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY) Trial]

[The RECOVERY (Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 thERapY) trial was established as a randomised clinical trial to test a range of potential treatments for COVID-19, including low-dose dexamethasone (a steroid treatment). Dexamethasone reduced deaths by one-third in ventilated patients and by one fifth in other patients receiving oxygen only.]

Available [here](#)

## Gastroenterology

### **BSG Interim Guidance: COVID-19 specific non-biopsy protocol for those with suspected coeliac disease** [British Society of Gastroenterology]

[In guidance on restarting endoscopy services the BSG has suggested treating patients (< 55 years) with suspected coeliac disease and a tTG >x10ULM without biopsy. Here is the protocol further detailing this advice, which is specific to the COVID-19 environment and has been issued as interim guidance pending the publication of the new BSG Coeliac Guideline expected to be published in 2021.]

Available [here](#)

### **Clinical guide for triaging patients with lower gastrointestinal symptoms** [NHS England]

[This guidance sets out how to manage patients with symptoms that might be due to colorectal cancer (CRC) and to identify those most in need of urgent investigation. It is important that patients with suspected colorectal cancer are able to access care.]

Available [here](#)

## Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and pregnancy** [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists]  
[Contains new content on labour and birth for women who are asymptomatic of COVID-19, updates to advice for women with clinical deterioration, reference to the new testing frameworks and further advice regarding prevention of venous-thromboembolism.]  
Available [here](#). Version 10.1, updated 19<sup>th</sup> June.

## Orthopaedics

**Management of patients with musculoskeletal and rheumatic conditions on corticosteroids** [British Society for Rheumatology et. al]  
[This guidance supersedes the previously published guidance from NHS England]  
Available [here](#)

## Renal Care

**COVID 19 rapid guideline: renal transplantation** [NICE]  
[This guideline covers children, young people and adults who need or who have had a kidney transplant, and people who are donating a kidney (live donors). It also advises transplant and referring centres on how to run their services, while keeping them safe for patients, donors and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic]  
Available [here](#)

## Rheumatology

**A guide on how to restart rheumatology services** [British Society for Rheumatology]  
[This guide, produced by a multidisciplinary group of BSR members from across the UK, explains how services could be managed, based on the current impact of COVID-19 and key constraints, such as staffing levels and access to other key elements of practice such as imaging and infusion services.]  
Available [here](#)

## KnowledgeShare Evidence Alerts

KnowledgeShare contains many updates on COVID-19 that can be accessed from the [KnowledgeShare website](#) without a password. If you'd like to receive these by email (along with updates on any other topics of interest) please complete the [form](#).

## About this bulletin

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