

COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin

15th July 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

COVID-19 pandemic recovery toolkit for NHS Trusts [Health Education England]

[This toolkit is a collation of resources to support Trusts during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes sections on recovery planning, capacity and long-term impacts, workforce wellbeing, learning lessons, organisational resilience and innovation.]

Available [here](#)

BAME communities

Disparities in the impact of Covid-19 in black and minority ethnic populations: review of the evidence and recommendations for action [Independent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies]

[This review of the evidence suggests that the reasons why some BME groups appear to be at greater risk of dying with Covid-19 are complex, with interplay between socio-economic disadvantage in BME populations, high prevalence of chronic diseases and the impact of longstanding racial inequalities being key explanations.]

Available [here](#)

Cardiovascular Care

Antithrombotic Therapies in COVID-19 Disease: A Systematic Review [Maldonado E., *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2020]

[New evidence on thromboembolism in COVID-19 does not warrant a change in current guidance on thromboprophylaxis among hospitalized patients. Prospective trials of antithrombotic treatment strategies among patients with COVID-19 are urgently needed.]

Available [here](#)

Treatment with ACE inhibitors or ARBs and risk of severe/lethal COVID-19: a meta-analysis [Flacco ME. *Heart* 2020]

[The present meta-analysis strongly supports the recommendation of several scientific societies to continue ARBs or ACE inhibitors for all patients, unless otherwise advised by their physicians who should thus be reassured.]

Available [here](#)

Convalescent Plasma Therapy

Convalescent plasma or hyperimmune immunoglobulin for people with COVID-19: a living systematic review [Piechotta V. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020]

[BACKGROUND: Convalescent plasma and hyperimmune immunoglobulin may reduce mortality in patients with viral respiratory diseases, and are currently being investigated in trials as potential therapy for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). OBJECTIVES: To continually assess, as more evidence becomes available, whether convalescent plasma or hyperimmune immunoglobulin transfusion is effective and safe in treatment of people with COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

Drug Therapy

Dexamethasone [evidence review from the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine]

["If the full published data from the RECOVERY trial of dexamethasone in the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 confirm the results in the preliminary publications, the decision to adopt it in the NHS before publication of the final paper will have been justified."]

Available [here](#)

No clinical benefit from use of lopinavir-ritonavir in hospitalised COVID-19 patients studied in RECOVERY [Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 thERapY (RECOVERY) Trial]

[A total of 1596 patients were randomised to lopinavir-ritonavir and compared with 3376 patients randomised to usual care alone. There was no significant difference in the primary endpoint of 28-day mortality (22.1% lopinavir-ritonavir vs. 21.3% usual care; relative risk 1.04 [95% confidence interval 0.91-1.18]; $p=0.58$) and the results were consistent in different subgroups of patients.]

Available [here](#)

Central Alerting System: Publication of an Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Remdesivir for Patients Hospitalised with COVID-19 (adults and children of 12 years and older)

[Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency]

[From 3 July 2020, an interim clinical commissioning policy has been put in place to define routine access to remdesivir in the treatment of COVID-19 across the UK. The policy reflects the conditions of the CMA, but also includes secondary criteria to be used should there be limitations in the supply of remdesivir in the UK.]

Available [here](#)

Elderly Care

Capturing beneficial change from the Covid-19 pandemic: response from the British Geriatrics Society.

[British Geriatrics Society]

[This report is a response to a request from NHS England and NHS Improvement for examples of beneficial innovations across the NHS that have been implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic and should be retained as the NHS starts to resume business as usual. BGS members contributed examples of innovations that have been implemented in their areas.]

Available [here](#)

Emergency Care

The management of ADULT cardiac arrest patients taken to EDs during the Covid-19 Pandemic [Royal College of Emergency Medicine]

[RCEM and NASMeD Position Statement: The purpose of this document is to provide a shared framework for ambulance clinicians and ED senior clinicians to provide the most appropriate care in the most appropriate place for adult patients in cardiac arrest on arrival at an ED.]

Available [here](#)

Gastroenterology

Triage guidelines for upper gastrointestinal physiology during restoration of services during the COVID-19 pandemic [British Society of Gastroenterology]

[This document aims to provide guidance on the procedures for triaging patients referred for upper gastrointestinal (UGI) physiology investigations as services resume following the COVID-19 restrictions. Investigations include oesophageal manometry and 24-hour ambulatory reflux monitoring. The guidance applies to both new referrals as well as referrals made prior to the pandemic which require being re-triaged.]

Available [here](#)

Rebooting Gastroenterology and Hepatology Outpatients in the wake of COVID-19 [British Society of Gastroenterology]

[The COVID-19 pandemic presents a unique opportunity in the history of the NHS to redesign outpatient services utilising digital technology and remote consultations. This guidance is a consensus of expert opinion which has been developed by the BSG Clinical Services and Standards Committee (CSSC), BSG Executive and co-opted members. It sets out how to reconfigure outpatient gastroenterology and hepatology services using a toolkit of pre-existing and innovative technologies.]

Available [here](#)

Nutrition

COVID-19 rapid evidence summary: vitamin D for COVID-19 [NICE]

[This evidence summary sets out the best available evidence on vitamin D for preventing or treating COVID-19, or for the susceptibility to COVID-19 based on vitamin D status. Treating or preventing acute respiratory tract infections more generally was out of scope. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) has published a report on vitamin D and acute respiratory tract infections.]

Available [here](#)

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Pregnancy issues [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 10th July

Orthopaedics

BOA Guidance update on Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) [British Orthopaedic Association]
[In light of a new evidence review by Health Protection Scotland which is endorsed by the Government's New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG), the BOA has issued a guidance update on Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) and PPE]
Available [here](#)

Outpatient Services

Rebuilding the NHS: Resetting outpatient services for the 21st century in the context of COVID-19
[Royal College of Physicians]
[The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) set out principles and recommendations for the reset of outpatient services.]
Available [here](#)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Outpatient management in adults [evidence summary from UpToDate]
Available [here](#). Last updated 13th July.

Respiratory Care

Use of corticosteroids in asthma and COPD patients with or without COVID-19 [Hasan SS. *Respiratory Medicine* 2020]
[This article provides a critical review of clinical evidence and offers a detailed discussion on the safety and efficacy of corticosteroids in asthma and COPD patients, both with and without COVID-19.]
Available [here](#)

High-flow nasal cannula for acute hypoxemic respiratory failure in patients with COVID-19: systematic reviews of effectiveness and its risks of aerosolization, dispersion, and infection transmission [Agarwal A. *Canadian Journal of Anaesthesia* 2020]
[High-flow nasal cannula may reduce the need for invasive ventilation and escalation of therapy compared with COT in COVID-19 patients with acute hypoxemic respiratory failure. This benefit must be balanced against the unknown risk of airborne transmission.]
Available [here](#)

Rheumatology

COVID-19 rapid guideline: rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders
[NICE]
[On 2 July 2020, we highlighted the possible risk of adrenal crisis for patients on long-term corticosteroids. The purpose of this guideline is to maximise the safety of children and adults with rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic, while protecting staff from infection. It also enables services to make the best use of NHS resources.]
Available [here](#). Last updated 2nd July.

Speech and Language Therapy

Guidelines of clinical practice for the management of swallowing disorders and recent dysphonia in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic [Mattei A. *European Annals of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Diseases* 2020]

[Procedures that are particularly at high risk of contamination are clinical and flexible endoscopic pharyngo-laryngological evaluation, and probably also video fluoroscopic swallowing exams. Voice rehabilitation should not be considered urgent at this time. Therefore, recommendations presented here mainly concern the management of swallowing disorders, which can sometimes be dangerous for the patient, and recent dysphonia.]

Available [here](#)

Stroke Care

Restoration and recovery of stroke services during the COVID-19 pandemic [British Association of Stroke Physicians]

[Restoration and recovery of stroke services during the COVID-19 pandemic assesses the impact of rapid changes made across the whole stroke pathway – including community services – at the peak of the pandemic, outlining new ways of working which have been beneficial for both patients and staff and should be continued and extended. It also aims to highlight those changes which now need a closer look and prevent a return to less effective ways of working.]

Available [here](#)

Surgery

Guidance on resumption of vascular surgery [National Joint Vascular Implementation Board]

[This guidance document follows a special meeting of the National Joint Vascular Implementation Board to consider joint advice to the wider vascular community in the light of COVID-19 experience to date, and to suggest measures for the resumption of a more normal vascular service in the future. We acknowledge with the geographical variations, manpower constraints and hospital facilities, some of the proposed solutions will not be possible.]

Available [here](#)

Recovery of Surgical Services Guidance: Tool 5: Consent to treatment, while COVID-19 is present in society [Royal College of Surgeons]

[This guide sets out the main principles of the consent process and provides advice on what additional information should be included in conversations with patients while COVID-19 is still prevalent in society.]

Available [here](#)

Recovery of Surgical Services Guidance: Tool 4: Virtual Consultations [Royal College of Surgeons]

[Virtual consultations, involving a telephone or video call between surgeon and patient, have been used in several surgical specialties prior to COVID-19. It has, however, played a particularly significant role during the current pandemic which is likely to continue in the post COVID-19 era and in future pandemic planning. This guide provides practical advice for surgeons and managers for delivering virtual consultations with surgical patients.]

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](#).

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