

COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin 10th February 2021

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

Clinical Decision Making During the COVID-19 Pandemic [Metlay JP. *Annals of Internal Medicine*]

[This American article discusses potential approaches to 3 ongoing areas of uncertainty in COVID-19 management: diagnosis, treatment and prevention. For each, the current state of knowledge is reviewed, the level of uncertainty is highlighted and a pathway forward is suggested.]

Available [here](#)

COVID-19 Clinical management: living guidance [World Health Organization]

[This document is the update of interim guidance published in May 2020. This guideline now also includes Best Practice Statement on caring for COVID-19 patients after their acute illness and 5 new recommendations.]

Available [here](#). Last updated 25th January

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

[Further guidelines have been published to inform the management of patients with coexisting conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. New and updated: Considerations for perinatal care ; Use of ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers; Potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic on diagnosis and management of other conditions; Essential hypertension; Giant cell arteritis]

Available [here](#). Last updated 26th January

Capacity

Reducing burden and releasing capacity to manage the COVID-19 pandemic [NHS England & NHS Improvement]

[Letter from Amanda Pritchard, Chief Operating Officer, NHS England and NHS Improvement which updates and reconfirms the position on regulatory and reporting requirements for NHS trusts and foundation trusts, including: pausing all non-essential oversight meetings, streamlining assurance and reporting requirements, providing greater flexibility on various year-end submissions, focussing our improvement resources on COVID-19 and recovery priorities.]

Available [here](#)

Cardiovascular Care

Renin-angiotensin system blocker and outcomes of COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis

[Lee HW. *Thorax*]

[ACEI/ARB therapy was not associated with increased risk of all-cause mortality or severe manifestations in patients with COVID-19. ACEI/ARB therapy can be continued without concern of drug-related worsening in patients with COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

Discharge

COVID virtual ward [NHS England]

[Letter and standard operating procedures supporting immediate roll out of a COVID 'virtual ward' model as an option for clinicians for earlier safe and supported discharge.]

Available [here](#)

Hospital discharge service guidance [Department of Health and Social Care]

[Guidance on how health and care systems should support the safe and timely discharge of people who no longer need to stay in hospital. Updated: Added link to 'Designated settings for people discharged to a care home'.]

Available [here](#). Last updated 2nd February

Drug Therapy

Prophylactic anticoagulants for people hospitalised with COVID-19.

Flumignan RL. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2020;10:CD013739.

[OBJECTIVES: To assess the effects of prophylactic anticoagulants versus active comparator, placebo or no intervention, on mortality and the need for respiratory support in people hospitalised with COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

The effect of tocilizumab on mortality in hospitalized patients with COVID-19: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials [Kow CS. *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*]

[Despite no clear mortality benefits in hospitalized patients with COVID-19, tocilizumab appears to reduce the likelihood of progression to mechanical ventilation.]

Freely available online

Available [here](#)

Corticosteroids, mortality and mechanical ventilation in COVID-19 [Mendes A. *British Journal of Community Nursing*]

[The authors reiterated that the effects of most drug interventions are highly uncertain, whereby no definitive evidence exists that other interventions result in important benefits and harms for any outcomes. It will be interesting to witness updates to this living systematic review and analysis, as a growing plethora of evidence is produced in further trials.]

Available [here](#). NHS OpenAthens account required

Emergency Care

Internal Professional Standards for Clinicians Working in SaTH Urgent Care Pathways – Updated Version During Covid-19 Pandemic [SaTH]

Available on [SaTH Intranet](#)

Leadership

Leading through Covid-19: supporting health and care leaders in unprecedented times [The King's Fund]

[These resources are aimed at leaders working in the NHS, social care, public health or the voluntary and independent sector. We want to ensure this is practical, helpful and works for you. Content includes managing self, working with others and learning from experience.]

Available [here](#)

Long COVID

The COVID-19 Sequelae: A Cross-Sectional Evaluation of Post-recovery Symptoms and the Need for Rehabilitation of COVID-19 Survivors [Iqbal, A. *Cureus*]

[This study aims to assess the prevalence and characteristics of post-COVID-19 manifestations and determine the correlations, if any, with factors like gender, age, and disease severity. We also aim to investigate the stigma associated with being a COVID-19 survivor and explore probable post-COVID-19 rehabilitation strategies for the hospital- and home-treated COVID-19 patients]

Available [here](#)

Post-COVID-19 Symptom Burden: What is Long-COVID and How Should We Manage It? [Sykes, DL. *In Review*]

[The enduring impact of COVID-19 on patients has been examined in recent studies, leading to the description of Long-COVID. We report the lasting symptom burden of COVID-19 patients from the first wave of the pandemic. All patients with COVID-19 pneumonia discharged from a large teaching hospital trust were offered follow-up. We assessed symptom burden at follow-up using a standardised data collection technique during virtual outpatient clinic appointments. Eighty-six percent of patients reported at least one residual symptom at follow-up.]

Available [here](#). *Please note this article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed*

Patient education: Recovery after coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) (The Basics) [patient education leaflet from UpToDate]

Available [here](#)

Construct validity of the Post-COVID-19 Functional Status Scale in adult subjects with COVID-19

[Machado FVC et al. *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes*]

[An increasing number of subjects are recovering from COVID-19, raising the need for tools to adequately assess the course of the disease and its impact on functional status. We aimed to assess the construct validity of the Post-COVID-19 Functional Status (PCFS) Scale among adult subjects with confirmed and presumed COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

Nutritional and Metabolic Disorders

Summary of COVID-19 medicines guidance: Nutritional and inherited metabolic disorders [Specialist Pharmacy Service]

[This page summarises and signposts to medicine related guidance we're aware of from professional and government bodies relating to coronavirus and nutritional and inherited metabolic disorders.]

Available [here](#)

Obstetrics and Gynaecology

SARS-CoV-2: do corticosteroids for fetal lung maturation worsen maternal or fetal outcomes?

[Eltaweel N. *British Journal of Midwifery*]

[Immune system changes during pregnancy could make pregnant women more susceptible to SARS-Cov-2 infection. The use of corticosteroids within obstetrics has been shown to reduce the risks of respiratory distress syndrome, intraventricular haemorrhage, necrotizing enterocolitis and neonatal death in the baby associated with premature delivery. During the COVID-19 pandemic, corticosteroids have been trialled as a treatment to dampen the 'cytokine storm' and associated inflammatory processes.]

Available [here](#). NHS OpenAthens account required

Rheumatology

Use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and risk of death from COVID-19: an OpenSAFELY cohort analysis based on two cohorts [Wong AY. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*]

[We found no evidence of a harmful effect of routinely prescribed NSAIDs on COVID-19 related deaths. Risks of COVID-19 do not need to influence decisions about the routine therapeutic use of NSAIDs.]

Available [here](#)

Speech and Language Therapy

Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Dysphagia in Patients Infected With SARS-CoV-2: A Review of the Literature and International Guidelines [Vergara J. *American Journal of Speech Language Pathology*]

[International associations have provided extensive guidance regarding the level of risk related to the management of dysphagia in this population. To date, there are no scientific papers offering disease and/or recovery profiling for patients with dysphagia and coronavirus disease 2019. As a result, research in this area is urgently needed.]

Available [here](#)

Staffing

Information for international nurses during COVID-19 [NHS Employers]

[This resource, created by NHS England and NHS Improvement, with the support of NHS Employers and the unions, provides a collection of national resources and guidance to support your international nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.]

Available [here](#)

Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccine safety update - Comirnaty (Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine) [European Medicines Agency]

[The EMA has released its first safety update on a COVID-19 vaccine. Data collected since its authorisation is consistent with the known safety profile of the vaccine; no new side effects were identified. The EMA will publish monthly updates for all authorised COVID-19 vaccines.]

Available [here](#)

Giving COVID-19 vaccine to individuals at extremes of bodyweight [Specialist Pharmacy Service]
[Information on vaccine administration and priority schedule for individuals at extremes of bodyweight.]
Available [here](#)

Report of the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group on COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance [MHRA]
[The MHRA has published its safety surveillance strategy for monitoring the safety of all UK-approved COVID-19 vaccines. This has been informed by the Commission on Human Medicines, and expertise across the UK public health sector.]
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

The COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin is prepared by Shrewsbury and Telford Health Libraries. Links to the full-text of items listed is provided where available, but if you need copies of any items where no full-text is available, please request them the [Article Request](#) form. Some items require an [NHS OpenAthens](#) account.

For more information, please contact

Jason Curtis
Site Librarian
Shrewsbury Health Library
Learning Centre
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital
jason.curtis1@nhs.net
01743 492511

Louise Stevens
Site Librarian
Telford Health Library
Education Centre
Princess Royal Hospital
l.stevens@nhs.net
01952 641222 Ext. 4694 or Ext. 4440