

# COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin

2<sup>nd</sup> July 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

**One minute brief: Patient's Own Controlled Drugs** [Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust]  
Available on the [SaTH Intranet](#)

## Cardiovascular Care

**Targeted AF detection in COVID-19 vaccination clinics** [Getting It Right First Time]  
[This document brings together learning from several pilot sites which have been carrying out targeted detection of atrial fibrillation (AF) in COVID-19 vaccination clinics. The aim is to provide guidance for systems wishing to develop a standard operating procedure for offering targeted rhythm checks for AF detection in mass vaccination clinics.]  
Available [here](#)

**Thromboinflammation in COVID-19: The Clot Thickens** [Iffah R. *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*]  
[Review highlights that understanding how immune system functions in different patient cohorts (particularly given recent emerging events with AZ vaccine) is vital to understanding pathophysiology of this disease and for subsequent development of novel therapeutic targets.]  
Available [here](#)

## Diagnosis

**COVID-19: Diagnosis** [evidence summary from UpToDate]  
Available [here](#). Last updated 23<sup>rd</sup> June

## Drug Therapy

**Ivermectin for Prevention and Treatment of COVID-19 Infection: A Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Trial Sequential Analysis to Inform Clinical Guidelines** [Bryant A. *American Journal of Therapeutics*]  
[Moderate-certainty evidence finds that large reductions in COVID-19 deaths are possible using ivermectin. Using ivermectin early in the clinical course may reduce numbers progressing to severe disease. The apparent safety and low cost suggest that ivermectin is likely to have a significant impact on the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic globally.]  
Available [here](#)

## **Imatinib in patients with severe COVID-19: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, clinical trial** [Aman J. *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*]

[Imatinib did not reduce the time to discontinuation of ventilation and supplemental oxygen for more than 48 consecutive hours in patients with COVID-19 requiring supplemental oxygen. The observed effects on survival (although attenuated after adjustment for baseline imbalances) and duration of mechanical ventilation suggest that imatinib might confer clinical benefit in hospitalised patients with COVID-19, but further studies are required to validate these findings.]

Available [here](#)

## **Education and Training**

### **Student support systems for undergraduate medical students during the COVID-19 pandemic: a systematic narrative review of the literature** [Ardekani A. *BMC Medical Education*]

[The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has boosted medical students' vulnerability to various problems. Given the stressful nature of medical disciplines, considerable attention must be paid to student support systems during pandemics. This study aimed to review the current literature regarding medical student support systems systematically.]

Available [here](#)

## **Health Services Restoration and Renewal**

### **Switched on: How do we get the best out of automation and AI in health care?** [The Health Foundation]

[This report explores the opportunities for automation and AI in health care and the challenges of deploying them in practice. It draws on learning from the Health Foundation's programmes and research – including a recent study by the University of Oxford on the potential of automation in primary care – as well as a range of other literature.]

Available [here](#)

## **Long COVID**

### **Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK: 1 July 2021**

[Office for National Statistics]

[Estimates of the prevalence of self-reported "long COVID" and associated activity limitation, using UK Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey data.]

Available [here](#)

### **Care Models for Long COVID: A Rapid Systematic Review** [SPOR Evidence Alliance]

[This review identifies international care models for long covid rehabilitation. It describes the integration of primary care, rehabilitation services and specialized clinics for long covid.]

Available [here](#)

### **Getting to grips with long covid** [Le Page, M. *New Scientist*]

[Millions of people worldwide are experiencing lasting symptoms from covid-19. Michael Le Page, Helen Thomson, Adam Vaughan and Clare Wilson report on what we do – and don't – know so far]

Available [here](#)

## Prognosis

### **Mortality and critical care unit admission associated with the SARS-CoV-2 lineage B.1.1.7 [Alpha] in England: an observational cohort study** [Patone M. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*]

[Patients with lineage B.1.1.7 were at increased risk of CCU admission and 28-day mortality compared with patients with non-B.1.1.7 SARS-CoV-2. For patients receiving critical care, mortality appeared to be independent of virus strain. Our findings emphasise the importance of measures to control exposure to and infection with COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

### **Risk of hospital admission for patients with SARS-CoV-2 [Alpha] variant B.1.1.7: cohort analysis**

[Nyberg T. *BMJ*]

[The results suggest that the risk of hospital admission is higher for people infected with the B.1.1.7 variant compared with wild-type SARS-CoV-2, likely reflecting a more severe disease. The higher severity may be specific to adults older than 30 years.]

Available [here](#)

## Pulse Oximetry

### **COVID Oximetry @home: evaluation of patient outcomes** [Boniface M. *medRxiv*]

[A retrospective service evaluation of COVID-19 patients onboarded to CO@h from November 2020 to March 2021 in the North Hampshire (UK) community led service (a collaboration of 15 GP practices, (population = 230,000). CO@h patients has had significantly reduced mortality rate and hospital length of stay. Only 5/137 (3.6%) were admitted to ICU compared with 52/633 (8.2%) for Non-CO@h.]

Available [here](#). This article is a pre-print and has not been peer-reviewed

## Speech and Language Therapy

### **Long COVID and speech and language therapy: Understanding the mid- to long-term speech and language therapy needs and the impact on services** [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists]

[Between 24 February and 10 March 2021, the RCSLT conducted a survey of members, to gather their insights into working with people with Long COVID over the previous year (February 2020 to March 2021). The resulting report furthers the understanding of the mid- to long-term speech and language therapy needs of people with Long COVID, the impact these difficulties have on people's lives and the essential role that speech and language therapy plays in supporting them.]

Available [here](#)

## Staff Wellbeing

### **Trainees4trainees: an innovative peer support project for junior doctors across specialties** [Behrman, S. *BJPsych Open*]

[We are working with Training Programme Directors to move towards running the groups in protected time within working hours and advocate that reflective groups, such as our peer support groups, are a key part of future medical and surgical Training Programmes.]

Available [here](#)

## Testing

**Technologies Validation Group: using tests to detect COVID-19** [Department of Health and Social Care]  
[This page sets out where tests to detect COVID-19 are commonly used and gives guidance for points to be considered when deciding on the optimal type of test to use for different use cases. The aim of this guidance is to help users to decide what the minimum performance standards of tests are that they should be considering when establishing a testing programme.]

Available [here](#)

## Vaccination

**JCVI interim advice on a potential coronavirus (COVID-19) booster vaccine programme for winter 2021 to 2022** [Department of Health and Social Care]

[Interim advice from the JCVI on the potential requirements for a COVID-19 booster vaccination programme for winter 2021 to 2022.]

Available [here](#)

**Effectiveness of BNT162b2 [Pfizer/BioNTech] and ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 [Oxford/AstraZeneca] COVID-19 vaccination at preventing hospitalisations in people aged at least 80 years: a test-negative, case-control study** [Hyams C. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*].

[In this post-implementation evaluation of two COVID-19 vaccines, we aimed to determine the effectiveness of one dose in reducing COVID-19-related admissions to hospital in people of advanced age. One dose of either BNT162b2 or ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 resulted in substantial risk reductions of COVID-19-related hospitalisation in people aged at least 80 years.]

Available [here](#)

**Safety and immunogenicity of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (AZD1222) [Oxford/AstraZeneca] vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 in HIV infection: a single-arm substudy of a phase 2/3 clinical trial** [Frater J. *The Lancet HIV*]

[Data on vaccine immunogenicity against SARS-CoV-2 are needed for the 40 million people globally living with HIV who might have less functional immunity and more associated comorbidities than the general population. In this study of people with HIV, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 was safe and immunogenic, supporting vaccination for those well controlled on ART.]

Available [here](#)

**COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker** [website]

[Vaccines approved for use and on trial in the UK and elsewhere]

Available [here](#). Last updated 28<sup>th</sup> June

## 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 may require an [NHS OpenAthens account](#).

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