

COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin 24th December 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

COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19 NICE guideline [NICE]

[This guideline covers the management of COVID-19 for children, young people and adults in all care settings. In December, NICE added new recommendations on COVID-19-associated pulmonary aspergillosis. NICE revised their statement about the Omicron variant in the recommendation on casirivimab and imdevimab.]

Available [here](#). Last updated 20th December

Nudging healthcare professionals to improve treatment of COVID-19: a narrative review [Vilhelmsson A. *BMJ Open Quality*]

[Conclusion: Evidence suggests that different nudging techniques can be used in clinical settings as simple, cost-effective strategies to fight COVID-19, reduce complications for intubated patients, improve hand hygiene, increase vaccination rates and avoid unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions. These strategies could be important in the continued handling of the pandemic, which will not be over until the whole world reaches herd immunity from vaccination...]

Available [here](#)

COVID-19 hospital prevalence as a risk factor for mortality: an observational study of a multistate cohort of 62 hospitals [Fakih MG. *BMJ Quality & Safety*]

[Conclusions: Although inpatient mortality for patients with COVID-19 has sharply declined compared with earlier in the pandemic, higher COVID-19 hospital prevalence remained a common risk factor for COVID-19 mortality. Hospital leaders need to reconsider how we provide support to care for patients in times of increased volume and complexity, such as those experienced during COVID-19 surges.]

Available [here](#)

Cancer

Association between COVID-19 burden and delays to diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients in England [Fox, L et al. *Journal of Cancer Policy*]

[The COVID-19 pandemic has been highly disruptive for cancer care. Here, we examined the effect COVID-19 had on performance of the 62-day Cancer Waiting Time (CWT) target set by the National Health Service (NHS) in England.]

Available [here](#)

Cardiovascular Care

COVID-19: Myocardial infarction and other coronary artery disease issues [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 24th November

Critical and Intensive Care

COVID-19: Management of the intubated adult [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 9th December

Drug Therapy

Aspirin in patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 (RECOVERY): a randomised, controlled, open-label, platform trial [RECOVERY Collaborative Group. *The Lancet*]

[In patients hospitalised with COVID-19, aspirin was not associated with reductions in 28 day mortality or in the risk of progressing to invasive mechanical ventilation or death, but was associated with a small increase in the rate of being discharged alive within 28 days.]

Available [here](#)

Using COVID-19 oral antivirals in practice [Specialist Pharmacy Service]

[Outside trials and if nMABs are contraindicated, availability is via NHSE Covid Medicines Delivery Units (CMDUs). Use our deployment principles and checklist.]

Available [here](#)

Education and Training

What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on residency training: a systematic review and analysis

[Chen SY. *BMC Medical Education*]

[The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has greatly affected medical education in addition to clinical systems. Residency training has probably been the most affected aspect of medical education during the pandemic, and research on this topic is crucial for educators and clinical teachers. The aim of this study was to understand the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic comprehensively through a systematic review and analysis of related published articles.]

Available [here](#)

Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation

Treating the Most Critically Ill Patients With COVID-19: The Evolving Role of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation [MacLaren G. *JAMA*]

[This Viewpoint discusses use of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) in treating patients with COVID-19 and how regional health care networks and governments should continue to monitor outcomes to help manage ECMO resources for all critically ill patients.]

Available [here](#)

Gastroenterology

Acid suppressant use in association with incidence and severe outcomes of COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis [Kim H-B. *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*]

[Analysis (15 retrospective cohort studies; n=18,109 COVID-19 cases) found PPI use significantly linked to severe outcomes of COVID-19 (HR 1.53;95% CI, 1.20–1.95) but not with incidence of COVID-19, whereas H2RA use was significantly linked to decreased incidence (0.86;0.76–0.97).]

Available [here](#)

Health Services

An evaluation of a virtual COVID-19 ward to accelerate the supported discharge of patients from an acute hospital setting [Swift J. *British Journal of Healthcare Management*]

[The virtual ward appeared to assist with earlier discharges, had a low rate of clinically necessary re-admissions, and seemed to reduce costs without compromising patient safety. The authors believe that this intervention could be applied across other NHS trusts facing similar capacity issues as a result of COVID-19.]

Available [here](#)

Community diagnostic centres: bringing diagnostics closer to home [Merriel, SDW et al, *British Journal of General Practice*]

[In October 2021, NHS England announced the creation of 40 new community diagnostic centres in England. The aims are to create faster, more direct access to diagnostic testing, divert patients from hospital to reduce waiting times and the spread of COVID-19, and tackle the backlog of diagnostic activity created by the pandemic.]

Available [here](#)

Long COVID

Understanding the lived experience of Long Covid: A rapid literature review [Baz, S et al. University College London]

[This rapid literature review explores existing studies into Long Covid (LC) and particularly captures the narratives of people who have adapted to live with LC. The literature reviewed in this paper largely focuses on providing an initial understanding of LC, how the illness emerged, and the fluctuating symptoms managed by those with LC]

Available [here](#)

Proposed subtypes of post-COVID-19 syndrome (or long-COVID) and their respective potential therapies [Shin Jie Yong and Shiliang Liu, *Reviews in Medical Virology*]

[While the pathophysiological mechanisms of PCS have been extensively described elsewhere, the subtypes of PCS have not. Owing to its highly multifaceted nature, this review proposes and characterises six subtypes of PCS based on the existing literature. Original studies supporting each of these subtypes are documented in this review, as well as their respective symptoms and potential interventions.]

Available [here](#)

Obstetrics

COVID-19: Pregnancy issues and antenatal care [evidence summary from UpToDate]

Available [here](#). Last updated 3rd December.

Vaccination Adverse Effects

SARS-CoV-2 vaccination and myocarditis or myopericarditis: population based cohort study [Husby A. *BMJ*]

[Vaccination with mRNA-1273 was associated with a significantly increased risk of myocarditis or myopericarditis in the Danish population, primarily driven by an increased risk among individuals aged 12-39 years, while BNT162b2 vaccination was only associated with a significantly increased risk among women. However, the absolute rate of myocarditis or myopericarditis after SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination was low, even in younger age groups.]

Available [here](#)

COVID-19 vaccination: Guillain-Barré Syndrome information for healthcare professionals [UK Health Security Agency]

[Information for healthcare professionals on Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) following coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination.]

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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