Y Grŵp Gweithredu ar Iechyd Anadlol
Respiratory Health Implementation Group

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES

All Wales Guideline for the Management of patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the Community during winter 2020/21

A dynamic national guideline to safely manage patients in the community and to safely manage the flow of patients into hospital

AIM 1 - To allocate the right resources to the right people at the right time
AIM 2 - Selected patients are monitored with safely netting to detect deterioration early
AIM 3 - All patients have a COVID infection status prior to hospital admission to reduce hospital transmission

STEP 1 INFORMATION: TELEPHONE TRIAGE

ⓘ Deteriorating patient or no improvement after 7 days

Especially those in high risk category, worsening or non-resolving symptoms:
- Breathlessness
- Fever

Low risk patients for SpO2 monitoring may not require physical examination

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/telephone-triage/

Consider palliative care and ethical framework

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/palliative-care/

STEP 3 INFORMATION: TEST

ⓘ Understanding SpO2 and COVID Test

Emerging evidence suggests that people may not present with breathlessness despite significant hypoxaemia. If uncertain, a low threshold for pulse oximetry is advised.

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/pulse-oximetry/

Health Boards to oversee point of care testing (POCT) distribution in the community, pre-hospital, and/or Emergency Departments.

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/poct-covid-test/

STEP 4 INFORMATION: MANAGE

ⓘ COVID Front door & non COVID Front door

Consultant Connect

Meeting a SpO2 threshold should prompt the clinician to use clinical judgement based on the following suggested criteria. Use a Consultant Connect Advice line if further advice needed

Patients not requiring admission based on decision at front door to be monitored in virtual ward

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/front-door/

ⓘ Virtual ward

- Continue safety netting for 14 days
- Monitor SpO2

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/virtual-ward/

111/GP
COVID confirmed/suspected
Self isolate + safety netting advice

Advise patient to get COVID test

STEP 1: TELEPHONE TRIAGE

ⓘ Concern with deteriorating patient or no improvement after 7 days

STEP 2: IN-PERSON ASSESSMENT

Assess severity
Likely COVID/flu   ⓘ

Likely other respiratory ⓘ

ⓘ STEP 3: TEST

High risk criteria or SpO2 ≤92%	Moderate risk criteria or SpO2 >92% and <95%	Low risk criteria and SpO2 ≥95%
If no COVID status perform POCT COVID test if available	If no COVID status perform POCT COVID test if it will change immediate management	No POCT COVID test
COVID -ve / COVID +ve	Advise patient to get COVID test	Advise patient to get COVID test

TESTING POINT

Check Advance Future Care Plan is in place, or discuss if needed

STEP 4: MANAGE

HOSPITAL	VIRTUAL WARD (if available)	HOME
ⓘ Non-COVID Front door / ⓘ COVID Front door	ⓘ Self-isolate, Safety netting, Monitor SpO2	Self-isolate, Safety netting

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STEP 2 INFORMATION: IN-PERSON ASSESSMENT

ⓘ In-person assessment

An in-person assessment can be undertaken in a designated room in the GP practice or Cluster Hub or at the patients home, using PPE.

Risk stratify your patient to help determine whether they require admission to hospital or management in the community with safety netting.

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/in-person-assessment/

ⓘ Likely other respiratory

The differential diagnosis of patients presenting with suspected COVID-19 include:
- Pneumonia
- Exacerbation, or worsening of an underlying lung disease
- Other viral illnesses

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/other-respiratory/

ⓘ High risk criteria

- Hypoxaemia in any patient*
  *Resting SpO2 <88% on air or >5% below baseline in a patient with COPD
- High risk patients with SpO2 <95% who are deemed too sick to stay at home or admit to virtual ward.

ⓘ Moderate risk criteria

- Over age 65
- Under age 65 with co-morbidities
- BAME

ⓘ Low risk criteria

- Under the age 65 with no co-morbidities

allwales.icst.org.uk/education/risk-stratification/