



Leeds Breathlessness Pathway (Covid-19)

This pathway was created for GPs during uncertain times using clinical judgement and is currently not evidence based. HR, RR & O2 sats are taken from sepsis and NEWS2 score – these may or may not be sensitive for Covid-19.

Guidance

- INITIAL ASSESSMENT SHOULD ALWAYS BE VIRTUAL BY TELEPHONE VIDEO OR ONLINE CONSULTATION
- UNNECESSARY F2F ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED
- A NEGATIVE COVID TEST DOES NOT EXCLUDE COVID INFECTION
- LISE CLINICAL HUDGEMENT FOR HOME VISITS TO MINIMISE EXPOSITEE TO VIDAL LOAD
- ADEQUATE AND PROPERLY FITTED PPE SHOULD BE WORN FOR ALL F2F APPOINTMENTS.
- F2E TIME SHOULD BE MINIMAL AND FOR PURPOSES OF EXAMINATION ONLY

(HISTORY WILL HAVE BEEN TAKEN REMOTELY, NOTES SHOULD BE WRITTEN UP AWAY FROM THE PATIENT.)

Telephone Triage - Patient with Suspected Covid19 Category 3 Category 1 Mild symptoms: stay at home, self-care Severely unwell: Need to admit patient to advice, contact NHS 111 if urgent health hospital. Call ambulance and inform call needs (whether related to COVID-19 or handler of COVID-19 risk. another health issue). Organise Video Consultation (where possible) Ask patient: how is your Organise Video Consultation (where possible) Ask patient: how is your breathing today? THEN Ask patient: are you so breathless that you are unable to speak more than a few words? Ask patient: are you breathing harder or faster than usual when doing nothing at all? Ask patient: are you so ill that you've stopped doing all your usual daily activities? If YES to any, THEN Ask patient: is your breathing faster, slower, or the same as normal? Adults RR≥25 Adults HR ≥125 Adults O2 Sats <93% Ask patient: what could you do yesterday that you can't today? OR Chest Pain, SOB, Unable to get out of bed, Ask patient: what makes you breathless now that didn't make you breathless vesterday? Patients may have a smart watch, BP machine or pulse oximeter at home. Consider provision of pulse oximeter (see link below) Confusion, Reduced urine output, Cold extremities or Skin mottling If deteriorates Advanced Assessment Adults RR 23-24 CHILDREN <12 Use sepsis guidance and clinical judgement as per usual practice (in particular, trep are not oreatmics) has typical pleuritic pain has purulent sputum becomes rapidly unwell after only a few days of symptoms Treatment Amoxicilin 500mg orally three times daily for five days Atternative Category 2A Treat temperature: Paracetamol, Fluids Treatment Amoxicillin 500mg orally three times daily for five days Alternative ycline 200 mg orally on day one then 100 mg daily for four day(five days in total) dence to support empirical use of antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infection Safety Netting. cline 200 mg orally on day one then 100 mg daily for four day(five days in total) Advised to call Practice (or 111 OOH) thin at most 24 hrs using clinical judgement. Patient to call 999 if deterior at es. except in high risk case such as immunosuppression, significant heart or lung disease (such as bronchiectasis or COPD) or severe illness following previous lung infection. Monitor within 24 - 72 hrs using clinical judgement. Patient to call 999 if deteriorates If known Asthma/COPD continue personalised treatment management plan. if symptoms are worse n Asthma/COPD continue personalised treatment manag f acute exacerbation of COPD/Asthma commence Rescue Treatment Plan

Supporting Evidence: COVID-19 Rapid Guidelines from NICE

Managing suspected or confirmed pneumonia in adults in the community https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng138

Steroids can be used safely in COVID-19 if clinically appropriate for routine management or exacerbations of asthma and COPD (https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng166/chapter/3-Treatment &

https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng168/chapter/2-Treatment-and-care-planning)
Managing symptoms (including at the end of life) in the community https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng191

COVID-19: remote consultations guide https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng163/resources/bmi-visual-summary-for-remote-consultations-pdf-8713904797 Leeds Health Pathways guideline on suspected pneumonia during COVID-19

Further advice on remote assessment in Covid-19 has been collated by the BMJ. Click here to access

High risk of adverse outcome from Covid-19 patient characteristics: <u>High risk of adverse outcomes from Covid-</u> 19.docx

Pulse Oximetry Patient Instructions: <u>Primary Care Patient Instructions for Pulse Oximeter PLEASE PRINT AND GIVE TO PATIENT.docx</u>