

## Contacting Acute Medicine in Covid-19 cases: Guidance for Mental Health Services

This guidance applies to all Covid-19 positive/suspected patients in Mental Health inpatient wards. Suspected cases are defined by breathlessness, fever (>38.5) and/or new cough.

### 1. Preparation

Teams should ensure that the following are completed/reviewed within normal working hours and available to OOH clinicians:

- **Anticipatory Care Plan (ACP)** in the GGC Clinical Portal
- **DNACPR Form** as appropriate
- **Treatment Escalation Plan (TEP)** if patient has already been discussed with Acute Medicine but is to remain in a Mental Health inpatient ward unless there is further deterioration.

### 2. Escalation

For patients who do not already have a TEP, contact on-call Acute Medicine as per usual local telephone number if the patient develops any of the following signs:

<p><b>O2 saturation on Room Air:</b> <b>&lt;94% for non-COPD patients</b>  <b>OR</b> <b>&lt;90% for COPD patients</b></p>
<p><b>Respiratory rate &gt;22</b></p>
<p><b>NEWS Score deteriorating</b></p>
<p><b>Clinical concern due to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Severe SOB at rest</li><li>•Chest Pain</li><li>•Blue lips or face</li><li>•Difficulty breathing</li><li>•Clammy, cold or mottled skin</li><li>•Poor urine output</li><li>•Difficult to rouse</li><li>•Haemoptysis</li></ul>

### 3. Palliation

Please refer to the [Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines](#)

All acute sites also have access to a **Hospital Specialist Palliative Care Team** and palliative care advice is available 24/7. In hours Monday to Friday 9-5 urgent advice for hospital patients, please contact switchboard and ask to speak to the palliative care CNS or Doctor. Out of hours there is a palliative medicine Doctor on call in each sector via switchboard.

#### Oxygen for end of life care symptomatic Covid Pneumonia patients

Patients with a clinical diagnosis of Covid Pneumonia should be considered for domiciliary oxygen if they meet the following criteria:

- O2 sats <85% on Room Air
- Patient deemed not for escalation to Acute hospital level care with DNACPR Form in place
- Distressing Breathlessness not relived by opiates or benzodiazepines – again please refer to the [Scottish Palliative Care Guidelines](#)