

ADRS Guidance for ADRS Staff using a Breathalyser during COVID 19 pandemic

This document is to support the reintroduction of the use of the breathalyser in ADRS inpatients, community bases and during home visits by ADRS staff. **It does not apply to community pharmacy staff providing supervision for Disulfiram medication.**

This guidance has been developed following consultation and advice from the NHSGG&C Infection Control Team and encompasses the latest Scottish Government guidelines around social distancing and the use of PPE. This should also be read in conjunction with NHSGG&C ADRS Guideline for the Use and Care of Alcohol Breathalyser Equipment, Health Protection Scotland (HPS) Novel Corona Virus guidance for Primary Care and HPS Novel corona virus guidance for Secondary Care.

Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) levels should only be obtained where the clinical need is identified to minimise risk. This could be as part of a new or on-going risk assessment and management plan for treatment.

Staff should ensure patient have no recognised symptoms of COVID 19 before arranged appointment.

NHSGGC Infection Control Team has confirmed that use of the Breathalyser is not an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP). Therefore airborne precautions do not need to be taken when undertaking this procedure. The Standard Infection Control Procedures remain a priority and staff should ensure they are frequently washing their hands thoroughly. When using alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) staff must ensure that the ABHR is dry before handling the breathalyser equipment. Patients on Disulfiram should avoid ABHR.

The following process should be adhered to:

- Where possible staff should breathalyse patients in a well ventilated area where they are able to maintain the 2 metre distance required.
- Staff should don a standard Type IIR Fluid Resistant Surgical Mask(FRSM), gloves and apron; see link re donning and doffing: [PPE for Non AGP](#)
- The use of single use or reusable face/eye protection/full face visor or goggles should be risk assessed by the member of staff carrying out the procedure on a case-by-case basis. Those not in a clinical area should use disposable face/eye protection.
- Staff should explain the procedure to the patient
- Patient should wash hands or use ABHR as appropriate
- Staff should assemble the breathalyser and hand it to the patient.

- Where possible staff should remain 2 metres away from the patient and direct the patient to use the breathalyser independently via an automatic or manual breath test.
- Once a sample has been obtained staff should ask the patient to dispose of the breathalyser mouthpiece in the clinical waste bag.
- Patient should wash their hands or use ABHR on completion as appropriate
- When the breathalyser has been handed back to staff they should clean the machine with disinfectant wipes (Clinnell disinfectant multipurpose wipes) and allow machine to air dry. Further information is contained in the attachment on cleaning and disinfecting machinery below.
- Single use PPE should then be disposed of in the clinical waste bag following doffing procedure. If reusable eye protection/visor used please follow cleaning procedure below.

Manual breath testing

This allows the operator to collect a sample when the patient is unable to provide the volume of breath required for an automatic sample. Staff should wherever possible follow the above process and direct the patient to press the 'ON' button as close to the end of exhalation as possible but while the patient is still blowing. The use of passive cups should be avoided.

How to clean your reusable eye protection/visor

For Droplet precautions where risk assessment has highlighted need for eye protection

- Remove gloves
- Remove apron
- Leave room/cohort area wearing visor and FRSM
- Remove visor and place on trolley/wipeable surface
- Remove FRSM
- Perform hand hygiene with ABHR
- Put on clean apron and gloves
- Clean visor with Actichlor plus 1000 ppm or an alcohol wipe.
- Clean surface
- Remove gloves
- Perform hand hygiene with ABHR
- Remove apron
- Perform hand hygiene with soap and water

[Intoximeter Cleaning and disinfecting information manual \(updated March 2020\)](#)



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