



Phone call for Respiratory Systems/COVID19 Concern

New Cough (<7days + Continuous)
± Fever
± Risk Factors

AND/OR

NEW Breathlessness (MMRC 1>1)

Clinician decides Home Visit necessary

Clinical Assessment

Key symptom : BREATHLESSNESS

RED FLAGS

- O2 Sat <92%
 - COPD <known baseline or <88%
 - Respiratory Rate ≥22
 - NEWS Score > 2
 - OR
 - **Clinical Concern**
- Severe SOB at rest
 - Chest Pain
 - Blue lips or face
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Clammy, cold or mottled skin
 - Poor urine output
 - Difficult to rouse
 - Haemoptysis

Clinician will require a PPE set, an extra mask, a plastic disposal bag and tape this bag to outside of car/house before entering home.

Before entering to allow easy access for disposal of PPE on leaving. Clinician puts on PPE before entering home (wear thin coat to allow apron) . Carry extra mask to give to patient if coughing or being referred. Minimize equipment carried as this will need to be cleaned with alcohol wipes Follow cleaning advice for instruments – at the home or outside. Follow procedure to remove PPE on leaving the house, place into waste bag and dispose of as clinical waste on return. Use alcohol gel on hands before entering vehicle. Wash hands as soon as possible.

Respiratory function (especially inability to talk in full sentences)

How is your breathing?

Is it worse than yesterday?

What does it stop you doing?

Assessment suggests SATA¹ needed

Adult

Pregnant

Phone Medical Receiving/SATA

Phone Obstetric Receiving

SCI Gateway COVID19 SATA referral

Patient's own transport or admin staff arrange Ambulance

Hospital/SATA¹ Assessment

Assessment suggests SATA¹ NOT needed

Rx

Risk factors²

NO Risk factors²

COPD

Phone call the next working day

Community Respiratory Team

Self Care Advice + Worsening Advice (Based on getting breathless)

Reference Information

NEWS Scoring system

Physiological parameter	Score						
	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Respiration rate (per minute)	≤8		9–11	12–20		21–24	≥25
SpO ₂ Scale 1 (%)	≤91	92–93	94–95	≥96			
SpO ₂ Scale 2 (%)	≤83	84–85	86–87	88–92 ≥93 on air	93–94 on oxygen	95–96 on oxygen	≥97 on oxygen
Air or oxygen?		Oxygen		Air			
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	≤90	91–100	101–110	111–219			≥220
Pulse (per minute)	≤40		41–50	51–90	91–110	111–130	≥131
Consciousness				Alert			CVPU
Temperature (°C)	≤35.0		35.1–36.0	36.1–38.0	38.1–39.0	≥39.1	

²RISK FACTORS for deterioration

- Age >60
- Frailty
- Respiratory or Cardio Comorbidities
- Immunosuppression including cancer

¹SATA = Specialist Assessment and Treatment Areas

Online NEWS Score Calculator

<https://www.mdcalc.com/national-early-warning-score-news>



Home Visit for Respiratory Symptoms/COVID Concern

New Cough (<7days + Continuous)
± Fever
± Risk Factors
AND/OR
NEW Breathlessness (MRC 1 +)

Self Care Advice
+ Worsening Advice (Based on getting
breathless)
+/- Increased Home Care

Assessed as
significantly
unwell

Practice
Respiratory
Appointment

Next day phone follow-up
If risk factors for deterioration

Clinical Assessment
• NB Key symptom is
BREATHLESSNESS O2 Sat <94
• COPD <known baseline or <88%
• Respiratory Rate ≥22
• Increased work of breathing
• NEWS Score > 2
OR
• Clinical Concerns

Direct
Transfer

Reached ceiling of care
AND/OR
Patient declines hospital assessment

Hospital Assessment

Palliative Care

Clinician will require a PPE set, an extra mask, a plastic disposal bag and tape this bag to outside of car/house before entering home.
Before entering to allow easy access for disposal of PPE on leaving. Clinician puts on PPE before entering home (wear thin coat to allow apron) . Carry extra mask to give to patient if coughing or being referred. Minimize equipment carried as this will need to be cleaned with alcohol
Follow cleaning advice for instruments – at the home or outside. Follow procedure to remove PPE on leaving the house, place into waste bag and dispose of as clinical waste on return.
Use alcohol gel on hands before entering vehicle.
Wash hands as soon as possible.

Kit List

- PPE
- Extra Mask
- Tape
- Waste bag
- Alcohol wipes
- Alcohol hand gel





COVID-19 APPROVED GUIDANCE

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Note: This guidance has been fast-tracked for approval for use within NHSGGC

Covid-19 GP Practice Home Visit GP Advice 4

This guidance is intended to assist healthcare professionals in the choice of disease-specific treatments.

Clinical judgement should be exercised on the applicability of any guidance, influenced by individual patient characteristics. Clinicians should be mindful of the potential for harmful polypharmacy and increased susceptibility to adverse drug reactions in patients with multiple morbidities or frailty.

If, after discussion with the patient or carer, there are good reasons for not following guidance, it is good practice to record these and communicate them to others involved in the care of the patient.

Version Number:	5
Does this version include changes to clinical advice:	Yes
Date Approved:	6 th April 2020
Approval Group:	Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group

Important Note:

The version of this document on the Clinical Guideline Directory is the only version that is maintained.

These "GP Advice Deck" are produced by the Primary Care Clinical Advisory Group to assist in the GP Practice response to the COVID19 pandemic. They may change at regular intervals and, in future, will be accompanied by a note explaining what has changed. They are designed to be able to be printed on A4 paper in black and white (obviously web links won't work when printed). There will be versions adapted for use in the Assessment Centres. The clinical assessment and referral criteria are informed by national guidance and with links to secondary care colleagues. The thresholds are likely to change as the pandemic progresses.

Usually they will be sent out from Primary Care Support as a whole deck and it may be simpler to print all and replace all at once to ensure you have the latest versions. It is probably not worth laminating due to the frequency of changes.