

Dear colleagues

Many thanks for your ongoing work and support of patients living in care homes. As we know there is a varied presentation of covid 19 in our patients and one of the presenting symptoms or symptoms at end of life which can be challenging to manage is shortness of breath. We know that use of opioids and benzodiazepines can help with this.

You will also be familiar with the Community Respiratory Response Team in the community offering support in patient's homes during the hours of 8am-6pm 7 days per week. This team have also offered to supply oxygen concentrators into care homes as an extension of support we can offer in care homes for patients who are not being admitted to hospital. This should be considered if you become concerned about an outbreak of covid 19 in the care home you look after or have a patient who you think may benefit. By having a low threshold for asking for this on an unnamed basis you will then have this available at short notice for affected patients. This has been trialled in a care home locally and has been helpful when having family discussions in particular.

Indications for its use in specific patients with suspected covid pneumonia would be;

- Oxygen saturations <85% on room air
- Patient deemed not for escalation to hospital with ACP and DNACPR in place
- Distressing breathlessness not relieved by opiates or benzodiazepines

You would contact the Respiratory CNS team in the appropriate area by phone giving the care home name and address and the contact person at the home for them to liaise with and this should be arranged the same day. Ideally this should be done before 4.30pm. The contact details are below. We are very grateful for this offer of support from their team.

QEUH/GGH/VIC Team

Kirsty Murray -Lead Respiratory CNS

Contact No: 0141 451 6073/6074

Mon-Fri 8-6 Sat Sun 8-4

Clyde -RAH/IRH/VOL Team

Suzanne Adams -Lead Respiratory CNS

Contact No: 0141 314 7400 (RAH) 01475505047 (IRH)

Mon-Sun 8-4

GRI/Stobhill Team

Joan Brand- Lead Respiratory CNS

Contact No 0141 211 4402

Mon-Sun 8-6

Please note the provision of oxygen concentrators for care homes follows a different process from the provision on a named basis for community patients living in their own homes. If you are looking

to support patients in their own homes you would follow referral processes published already by the CRRT (attached).

We would be grateful for any feedback or if there are any issues or concerns that you either contact myself on judithmarshall@nhs.net or Dr Dave Anderson as the lead clinician for the Respiratory MCN on David.Anderson@ggc.scot.nhs.uk and mobile - 07855100945

Many thanks

Dr Jude Marshall

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