

Important Shropdoc Updates

Additional Triage Prior To Face To Face Contact

Before seeing patients face to face, please feel free to re-triage any case where on reviewing the notes you don't feel you have sufficient information to satisfy yourself of the risk of COVID or the purpose of the face to face contact. Triage clinicians as a minimum please say what can be gained by face to face contact i.e. what diagnostic or prognostic uncertainty can be informed and COVID status of not only patient but also any relatives/carers. Remember to request urine samples if required.

Consulting Patients in Car Park

When a COVID19 patient needs seeing face to face, either at base or home visit, there is merit in taking supplementary history by phone if possible. Then, any limited examination can be done in the car park (weather permitting) if needed. Do not just take the triage note as 'gospel'. Triage quality on the whole is excellent but I have had some feedback that the occasional case sneaks through with limited information. This may have been during the peak demand witnessed on Easter Saturday.

Recommendations In Light Of COVID19 Now Circulating Freely In Population

Any contact with patients in primary care needs PPE i.e. contact within 1m. If you can maintain 2m then no need.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/updates-to-the-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-for-covid-19>

Table 4 Refers:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/87911/T4_poster_Recommended_PPE_additional_considerations_of_COVID-19.pdf

Shropdoc has good supplies of aprons, gloves and masks. We have solid re-usable visors that can be cleaned between use. Individual multi-use visors are in-bound if you haven't received on already.

Advice for Patient Post COVID - How Long Before I Can Go Out Doctor?

This is the Govt advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-within-hospitals-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-home-settings/guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-and-discharging-covid-19-patients>

As far as general practice patients go, if not swabbed, go with 48-hours after fever subsided as long as greater than 7-days, which accords with published guidance too.

Dr Simon Chapple