COVID-19 Evidence Bulletin 36

**UK Guidance**

**Public Health England**

PHE Literature Digest

23rd Oct 2020
26th Oct 2020
28th Oct 2020

**NHS England**

Guidance on supply and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies
Published on: 20 March 2020
Last modified on: 28 October 2020

Specialty guides for patient management
Published on: 16 March 2020
Last modified on: 27 October 2020

Maternity leaflets
Published on: 6 May 2020
Last modified on: 27 October 2020

Guidance and standard operating procedure: Primary care optical settings in the context of coronavirus (COVID-19)
Published on: 17 June 2020
Last modified on: 26 October 2020

**NHS Providers**

Responding to COVID-19: a more flexible NHS workforce 22nd October 2020

**SAGE**

CO-CIN: COVID-19 - Time from symptom onset until death in UK hospitalised patients
23rd October 2020

**Imperial College Reports**

React Study
High prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 swab positivity and increasing R number in England during October 2020: REACT-1 round 6 interim report 29th October 2020

Access more information about this study below:

- Download the pre-print: REACT 1 round 6 interim report (PDF)
- News article: Coronavirus infections rising rapidly in England, REACT study shows

Declining prevalence of antibody positivity to SARS-CoV-2: a community study of 365,000 adults 27th October 2020

Access more information about this study below:

- Download the pre-print: REACT 2 rounds 1-3 (PDF report)
- News article: Coronavirus antibody prevalence falling in England, REACT study shows

International Guidance

WHO

Laboratory assessment tool for laboratories implementing SARS-CoV-2 testing 23rd October

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Key aspects regarding the introduction and prioritisation of COVID-19 vaccination in the EU/EEA and the UK 25th October

Rapid Risk Assessment: Increased transmission of COVID-19 in the EU/EEA and the UK – thirteenth update 23rd October

Pharmacy

Specialist Pharmacy Service

Summary of COVID-19 medicines guidance: Obstetrics and gynaecology 27th October

Summary of COVID-19 medicines guidance: Haematological disorders 27th October

Summary of COVID-19 medicines guidance: Palliative and End of Life Care 23rd October

Summary of COVID-19 medicines guidance: Skin disorders 22nd October

Evidence Based Summaries

Centre for Evidence Based Medicine

Drug vignettes: Tocilizumab 27th October

Drug vignettes: Remdesivir 26th October
Tracking UK Covid-19 cases  25th October

Royal Colleges / Associations: Latest & Updated Guidance

British Medical Association

Doctors warn that pressures of Covid and patient backlog mean NHS will struggle to cope this winter
25 October 2020

Faculty of Occupational Medicine

COVID-19 update: Ethnicity, Occupation Risk Reduction
23 October 2020

British Society of Gastroenterology

Reports

Tackling health inequalities for Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities and colleagues: Understanding impact, reducing inequalities, supporting recovery.
West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership; 2020
Evidence shows that people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities continue to face health inequalities, discrimination in the workplace and are more likely to develop and die as a result of a plethora of diseases, most recently COVID-19.

Country reports: COVID-19 and Long-Term Care.
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE); 2020.
These reports aim to document the impact of COVID-19 on people who use and provide Long-Term Care and the measures adopted by different countries to contain and mitigate the impact of the virus. They are updated regularly as new information becomes available.

Selected Papers:

Antibiotics

Few bacterial co-infections but frequent empiric antibiotic use in the early phase of hospitalized patients with COVID-19: results from a multicentre retrospective cohort study in The Netherlands
Knowledge on bacterial co-infections in COVID-19 is crucial to use antibiotics appropriately. Therefore, we aimed to determine the incidence of bacterial co-infections, antibiotic use and application of antimicrobial stewardship principles in hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

Artificial Intelligence

Development and evaluation of an artificial intelligence system for COVID-19 diagnosis.
Early detection of COVID-19 based on chest CT enables timely treatment of patients and helps control the spread of the disease. We proposed an artificial intelligence (AI) system for
rapid COVID-19 detection and performed extensive statistical analysis of CTs of COVID-19 based on the AI system.

**BAME**

**COVID-19 Update: Ethnicity, Occupation, Risk Reduction.**
Faculty of Occupational Medicine (FOM); 2020.
The consensus from PHE, HSE and FOM on workplace risks recommends that mitigation is best addressed through consistent and effective implementation of existing Health and Safety Executive (HSE), HMG and other guidance for employers, including recent guidance on SARS-CoV-2 infection.

**An Avoidable Crisis: The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.**
The Labour Party; 2020.
A review by Baroness Doreen Lawrence. Covid-19 is having a disproportionate and devastating impact on ethnic minority communities. Black, Asian and minority ethnic people are more likely to work in frontline or shutdown sectors which have been overexposed to Covid-19, more likely to have co-morbidities which increase the risk of serious illness and more likely to face barriers to accessing healthcare.

**Behaviour**

**Encouraging behaviour change to reduce COVID-19 transmission: A summary of two rapid evidence reviews.**
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC); 2020.
The SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19 is transmitted directly or indirectly between people. Its spread can be limited by making transmission less likely. This briefing highlights the findings from two reviews of the literature on transmission.

**Contact Tracing**

**Ethical Framework for Assessing Manual and Digital Contact Tracing for COVID-19.**
Lo B. Annals of Internal Medicine 2020; doi.org/10.7326/M20-5834.
This article analyses technical and ethical issues regarding new smartphone apps that facilitate contact tracing and exposure notification, and presents a framework for assessing contact tracing, whether manual or digital.

**Contact tracing: digital health on the frontline [Editorial].**
The Lancet Digital Health calls for robust evaluation of global contact tracing approaches to stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and future epidemics. The digital health community are on the frontline and, at this watershed moment, we must galvanise to end this pandemic.

**Early Warning / Risk prediction**

**A meta-analysis of SARS-CoV-2 patients identifies the combinatorial significance of D-dimer, C-reactive protein, lymphocyte, and neutrophil values as a predictor of disease severity.**
Using the generated equations, the outcomes of COVID-19 patients can be predicted using commonly obtained clinical laboratory data. These predictive equations may inform future studies evaluating the long-term follow-up of COVID-19 patients.
General

**Supporting staff who are shielding during COVID-19.**
NHS Employers; 2020.
Read this case study and find out what Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust did to support staff that were shielding during COVID-19.

**Anticoagulation outcomes in hospitalized Covid-19 patients: A systematic review and meta-analysis of case-control and cohort studies.**
Kamel AM. *Reviews in Medical Virology* 2020;::e2180.
Findings support the association of AC with mortality in Covid-19 patients. The results, synthesized from mostly low-quality studies, show that prophylactic and therapeutic AC might reduce mortality in Covid-19 patients. Findings suggest that therapeutic doses might be associated with better survival compared to prophylactic doses.

**Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin II receptor blockers and outcomes in patients with COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis.**
Use of ACEI/ARB was not associated with increased mortality or severe COVID-19. To look for any potential beneficial effects, randomized controlled trials are needed.

**UK pandemic preparedness.**
Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2020.
This document sets out: how the UK prepares for and responds to an infectious disease pandemic, particularly a potential outbreak of pandemic influenza; how exercises carried out as part of our pandemic preparedness have informed the UK’s COVID-19 response. Published 20 October 2020.

**Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and angiotensin-receptor blockers and the risk of COVID-19 infection or severe disease: Systematic review and meta-analysis.**
Caldeira D. *IJC Heart & Vasculature* 2020;::100627.
ACEi/ARB exposure does not seem to increase the risk of having the SARS-CoV-2 infection or developing severe stages of the disease including mortality. The potential benefits observed in mortality of hypertensive patients reassure safety, but robust studies are required to increase the confidence in the results.

**Ventilation management and clinical outcomes in invasively ventilated patients with COVID-19 (PRoVENT-COVID): a national, multicentre, observational cohort study**

**Residential context and COVID-19 mortality among adults aged 70 years and older in Stockholm: a population-based, observational study using individual-level data**

**Learning from a pandemic: how the post-covid NHS can reach its full potential**

**Risk of hospital admission with coronavirus disease 2019 in healthcare workers and their households: nationwide linkage cohort study**

Long Covid
Case study stories of long-term impact of COVID-19.
The symptoms of ‘long COVID’, including fatigue, protracted loss of taste or smell, respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms and mental health problems, are described in a new film being released as part of the wider national Hands, Face, Space campaign. The film calls on the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control the spread of the virus. Subtitled.

Mental Health

Psychological Therapies and Psychoeducational Recommendations for Bipolar Disorder Treatment During COVID-19 Pandemic
Individuals with pre-existing anxiety disorders (AD) and other psychiatric conditions are more vulnerable to the negative psychological consequences of pandemics. Individuals with bipolar disorder (BD) are at increased risk of developing AD. Our clinical care review aims to provide specific guidelines for BD treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of Covid-19 to date on older people’s mental and physical health.
Age UK; 2020.
This research finds that some older people are coping with the pandemic, but a sizeable minority are finding life incredibly tough. Those who are not very well and have long-term health conditions were particularly likely to report that this is an extremely challenging time for them.

NHS Digital; 2020.
This is the first in a series of follow up reports to the Mental Health and Young People Survey (MHCYP) 2017, exploring the mental health of children and young people in July 2020, during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and changes since 2017.

Pre-pandemic psychiatric disorders and risk of COVID-19: a UK Biobank cohort analysis

Prevalence, management, and outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infections in older people and those with dementia in mental health wards in London, UK: a retrospective observational study

Oncology

Consequences of COVID-19 for cancer care — a CRUK perspective.
We reflect on the past 10 months of clinical activity in oncology in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic and suggest how services can be protected during subsequent waves of infection.

Occupational Therapy

Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT); 2020.
98% of participants shared that the pandemic impacted their role, responsibilities and duties with a third redeployed to a different team. 60% were providing an alternative method of occupational therapy service delivery, such as remote delivery. The survey responses revealed that the impact of COVID-19 on occupational therapy has been profound and varied.

**Paediatrics**

**Impact of COVID-19 mitigation measures on the incidence of preterm birth: a national quasi-experimental study**

**Stroke**

**COVID-19 associated arterial ischaemic stroke and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children: a case report**

**Transmission**

**Virology, transmission, and pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2.**
Cevik M. *BMJ* 2020;371:m3862.

**Serological surveillance of SARS-CoV-2: trends and humoral response in a cohort of public health workers**

**Seropositive Prevalence of Antibodies Against SARS-CoV-2 in Wuhan, China**

**The temporal association of introducing and lifting non-pharmaceutical interventions with the time-varying reproduction number (R) of SARS-CoV-2: a modelling study across 131 countries**

**The engines of SARS-CoV-2 spread**
Fighting SARS-CoV-2 requires a clear framework for understanding epidemic spread.

**Clinical impact of molecular point-of-care testing for suspected COVID-19 in hospital (COV-19POC): a prospective, interventional, non-randomised, controlled study**

**Treatment**

**Chemoprophylaxis, diagnosis, treatments, and discharge management of COVID-19: An evidence-based clinical practice guideline (updated version).**
The steering group members proposed 29 questions that are relevant to the management of COVID-19 covering the following areas: chemoprophylaxis, diagnosis, treatments, and discharge management.

Efficacy of Tocilizumab in Patients Hospitalized with Covid-19.
New England Journal of Medicine 2020;:NEJMoa2028836..
Tocilizumab was not effective for preventing intubation or death in moderately ill hospitalized patients with Covid-19. Some benefit or harm cannot be ruled out, however, because the confidence intervals for efficacy comparisons were wide.

Convalescent plasma in the management of moderate covid-19 in adults in India: open label phase II multicentre randomised controlled trial (PLACID Trial).
Agarwal A. BMJ 2020;371:m3939.
Convalescent plasma was not associated with a reduction in progression to severe covid-19 or all cause mortality. This trial has high generalisability and approximates convalescent plasma use in real life settings with limited laboratory capacity. A priori measurement of neutralising antibody titres in donors and participants might further clarify the role of convalescent plasma in the management of covid-19.

Remdesivir for Adults With COVID-19: A Living Systematic Review for an American College of Physicians Practice Points.
In hospitalized adults with COVID-19, remdesivir probably improves recovery and reduces serious adverse events and may reduce mortality and time to clinical improvement. For adults not receiving mechanical ventilation or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, a 5-day course of remdesivir may provide similar benefits to and fewer harms than a 10-day course.

Treating COVID-19: are we missing out the window of opportunity?

Lopinavir–ritonavir in patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 (RECOVERY): a randomised, controlled, open-label, platform trial

Vaccines

Key aspects regarding the introduction and prioritisation of COVID-19 vaccination in the EU/EEA and the UK

Understanding protection from SARS-CoV-2 by studying reinfection
Understanding the risk of reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 in exposed cohorts provides an avenue to understanding the path to protection against SARS-CoV-2 for vaccine development.

Longitudinal observation and decline of neutralizing antibody responses in the three months following SARS-CoV-2 infection in humans.
The UK Government's Vaccine Taskforce: strategy for protecting the UK and the world

Who should be prioritised for COVID-19 vaccines?

What defines an efficacious COVID-19 vaccine? A review of the challenges assessing the clinical efficacy of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2

Safety and immunogenicity of an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, BBIBP-CorV: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 1/2 trial
S. Xia. The Lancet Infectious Diseases. (2020).

EvidenceAid (Systematic Reviews)

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic is leading to a rapidly expanding and evolving literature. This evidence collection contains plain-language summaries of high-quality research which are available in English, and translated into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Chinese (simplified and traditional).

The collection includes summaries of systematic reviews that might be relevant to the direct impact of COVID-19 (including reviews of emerging research, as well as existing reviews of relevant interventions) on health and other outcomes, the impact of the COVID-19 response on other conditions, and issues to consider for the recovery period after COVID-19

Children and COVID-19
Added October 29, 2020

Hypertension and COVID-19
Added October 26, 2020

Online

From the benefits of emergency data gathering in order to work on new treatments, to the transfer of primary care services online, Covid-19 has been the catalyst bringing about the long-discussed digital revolution. With almost every part of the system shaken by Covid-19, was all digital change positive and what are the challenges still left to tackle? Join this King’s Fund event to hear the views of NHS and industry leaders.
Online
From: 2nd November, 2020 9:30am Until: 5th November, 2020 12:00pm
https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/digital-health-and-care

Virtual Conference

Leading beyond Covid-19: transforming work and cultures (virtual conference)
Kings Fund 23-26 November

Learning from others
For a comprehensive and searchable database of Covid-19 research papers see LitCovid from Pubmed.

If you require an evidence search on a particular aspect of Covid-19 or with regards to a particular patient group please get in touch:

Colchester Hospital Library
Library.services@esneft.nhs.uk
Tel: 01206 742146

Ipswich Hospital Library
Hospital.library@esneft.nhs.uk
Tel: 01473 702544

Published: 29th October 2020