

## **Home Visiting Processes in Relation to Covid 19 Pandemic**

This short paper describes the process to be followed for home visiting patients during the Covid 19 pandemic in the Out of Hours Service or the Covid Community Assessment Centre. The guidance is based on HPS guidance for community care and follows the same processes as are followed by district nursing colleagues.

### **Preparation**

In addition to the usual equipment for Out of Hours visiting, ensure that the car is adequately stocked with the following: -

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Roll of aprons  
Box of masks  
Box of nitrile gloves  
Small stock of eye protection goggles or full face visor

#### **Clinical Equipment**

Stethoscope  
Thermometer with single use covers  
Oxygen saturation probe  
Otoscope with single use ear-pieces

#### **Cleaning and Waste Sundries**

Clear waste bags  
Hand sanitiser  
Pack of 70% alcohol (red) wipes  
2 boxes with lids, one of carrying equipment into house and one to receive clean equipment on cleaning after visit

### **While Travelling**

In keeping with Scottish Government advice, the driver and the doctor should wear a face covering or mask while travelling together in the car and a window should be open for ventilation.

### **Arrival at Home Visit**

On arrival at the patient's home, the clinician should don PPE at the threshold to the premises. Following HPS guidance, the appropriate level of PPE should be donned according to the patient's circumstances as follows: -

1. Suspected of confirmed Covid 19
  - a. Apron
  - b. Fluid resistant face mask
  - c. Eye or face protection

- d. Gloves
- 2. Shielding non-Covid 19
  - a. Apron
  - b. Gloves
  - c. Eye or face protection (depending on the clinician's risk assessment)
  - d. Fluid resistant face mask (to protect patient)
- 3. Non-Covid 19 – not shielding
  - a. Apron
  - b. Gloves
  - c. Fluid resistant face mask (depending on the clinician's risk assessment)
  - d. Eye or face protection (depending on the clinician's risk assessment)

The clinician should bring the following equipment to the threshold of the premises: -

- 1. For managing the patient
  - a. Box with clinical equipment as listed above
  - b. Fluid resistant face mask to give to patient
- 2. For leaving at the threshold in preparation for doffing PPE and cleaning equipment
  - a. 2 clear waste bags
  - b. Pair of nitrile gloves
  - c. Hand sanitiser
  - d. Pack of 70% alcohol (red) wipes
  - e. Box for receiving clean equipment

### **Completion of Visit**

When the clinical assessment has been carried out, the clinician should doff PPE and clean equipment just outside the threshold of the premises. This is necessary so that the clinician is clean before touching any door handles or door release buttons or lift buttons.

### **Doffing Personal Protective Equipment**

PPE should be doffed in the following order: -

- 1. Gloves
- 2. Apron
- 3. Eye or face protection
- 4. Fluid resistant face mask

The doffed PPE and single use eye protection should be placed in one of the clear waste bags and the clinician's hands should be cleaned with hand sanitiser.

### **Cleaning Equipment**

Once PPE has been doffed and placed in the clinical waste bag and the clinician's hands cleaned, the clinician should don the additional pair of nitrile gloves and should then clean each item of equipment with the 70% alcohol (red) wipes. The box which has been used to carry equipment into the home should also be cleaned. The cleaned equipment and box should be placed in the clean box which has been left at the threshold. Once all equipment has been cleaned, the wipes and gloves should be discarded in the first waste bag. The waste bag should be tied up and then placed in the second clinical waste bag which should in turn be tied up. The clinician's hands should again be cleaned with hand sanitiser.

### Disposal of Waste

The double bagged waste will be left in the patient's home for 72 hours after which it can be disposed of in the household waste.

### Clean Equipment

The clean equipment should be allowed to air dry in the clean box before closing the lid and returning to the boot of the car in readiness for the next visit

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