

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Guideline scope

COVID-19 rapid guideline: cystic fibrosis

1 Clinical question

How should care be provided for the clinical areas identified for patients with confirmed COVID-19, suspected COVID-19 or without COVID-19?

2 What the guideline will cover

2.1 *Who is the focus?*

Patients (adults, children and young people) with cystic fibrosis.

2.2 *Activities, services or aspects of care*

Key areas that will be covered

For each of the clinical areas where guidance is developed, we may look at areas including, but not limited to:

- 1 General measures to reduce exposure (of staff and patients) to infection.
- 2 Triage and prioritising treatments.
- 3 Areas of the patient pathway (home to hospital, for example) for which management will be different due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4 Deployment of other non-specialist trained staff to deliver services if workforce capacity is reduced.

For the guidelines covering critical care only, the areas may specifically include:

- 5 Decision making for critical care.

[See appendix A for details of the key themes and questions.](#)

Key areas that will not be covered

- 1 Clinical management of COVID-19 infection because this is already covered in guidance produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement.
- 2 Service delivery.
- 3 Specific guidance on the training requirements for staff to deliver care if workforce capacity is reduced.

2.3 *Principles of identifying where guidance is required and developing this guidance*

- 1 Assess the standard patient pathway and identify areas of deviation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 Curate any existing guidance on the specific clinical area that deviates from the standard care pathway and collate it in an accessible format.
- 3 Search for evidence to inform practice if there is no guidance, or there is uncertainty, on the clinical area that deviates from the standard care pathway.
- 4 Identify what people need to stop doing, start doing and do more of as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that is different from standard clinical practice.

Appendix A Proposed key themes and key questions for the guideline

Cystic fibrosis (wave 4)

Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults, children and young people with cystic fibrosis
Key themes to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with patients, families and carers and support for their mental wellbeing Advance care planning in the context of COVID-19 Mitigating and reducing the risk of infection for patients by minimising or avoiding attendance at hospital, including use of remote monitoring Advising on self-care for patients Alternative routes of access to medicines including prescribing, dispensing and delivery/collection of prescriptions Mitigating and reducing the risk of infection to staff and patients who do attend hospital Ensuring staff and service resilience and clinical expertise, including service changes to cope with staff illness or self-isolation Creating capacity to treat high-priority patients by reducing or stopping routine activity
Themes to exclude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission to critical care and associated decision-making (cross refer to rapid COVID-19 guideline NG159) Management of bacterial respiratory complications of cystic fibrosis (cross refer to the NICE cystic fibrosis guideline) Management of non-respiratory aspects of cystic fibrosis care (cross refer to the NICE cystic fibrosis guideline)
Key questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What should services stop doing? What should services start doing? What should services continue to do, or do more of?

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