

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Guideline scope

COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing symptoms (including at the end of life) in the community

1 Clinical question

How will the delivery of services be managed in the areas identified for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19?

2 What the guideline will cover

2.1 *Who is the focus?*

Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

2.2 *Activities, services or aspects of care*

Key areas that will be covered

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

Appendix A Proposed key themes and key questions for the guideline

Managing symptoms (including at the end of life) in the community (wave 2)

Population and key themes to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing key COVID-19 symptoms, including breathlessness, cough, fever and delirium for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – People without a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19 but who have symptoms – People who have a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19 – People who are at end of life due to Covid-19 symptoms, including anticipatory prescribing. • Supporting staff and family members in all care settings to discuss and make plans for future care including treatment escalation
Themes to exclude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and education • Workforce availability
Key questions	<p>Managing symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should key COVID-19 symptoms (breathlessness, cough, fever and delirium) be managed using non-pharmacological and pharmacological measures, including what needs to be done differently, stopped or continued? <p>What are the steps required for care of patients dying with COVID-19 (in all care settings) for:</p> <p>Rapid symptom management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipatory prescribing – including syringe drivers, alternative approaches to syringe drivers, access to medicines • What steps are required immediately before and after death in relation to the patient, including their medicines? <p>Discussions for care planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions and approaches should be taken to support staff and families in discussing and making plans for future care, including treatment escalation for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – People in the community – People in hospital – People in residential or nursing homes.

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