COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit

Daily evidence digest

7 April 2020

The daily evidence digest collates recently released reports and evidence – provision of these links does not imply endorsement nor recommendation.

ACE-I/ARB continued use, CVD advice, burns, diabetes

Four journals feature articles on continuing use of ACE-inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) for COVID-19, JAMA cardiology click here, BMJ click here, NEJM click here, New Zealand Medical Journal click here

Also on cardiovascular disease:

- the MJA features advice from a group of experts on heightened risks for CVD patients, and recommended responses to the COVID-19 outbreak - such as adopting a high threshold for acute cardiology admissions and cardiac procedures, rapid discharges, and cardiologist- led telehealth click here
- Researchers in Toronto describe the development of a 'protected code stroke' algorithm which includes pre-notification and pre-code screening for COVID-19 infection here, (and Figure 1)

Other guidance just released:

- Consensus guidelines for prevention and management of COVID-19 for neurologists click here
- Burns ward management strategies here and here
- An updated framework for telemedicine in the COVID-19 pandemic click here
- Strategies to optimise the provision of mechanical ventilation in the US – including the use of anaesthesia machine ventilators to meet the anticipated high demands click here
- Advice on care of the deceased with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, from Public Health England here
- A guide from the Australian Diabetes Society on the management of diabetes during COVID-19 click here and advice on gestational diabetes testing click here
- A dialysis preparedness checklist from the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology click here
- Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP in the UK) advice on workload prioritisation during COVID-19 click here

PPE continues to be an important topic and the BMJ has released a useful visual summary click here, there is also an article on electronic PPE here, and guidance from Public Health England here.

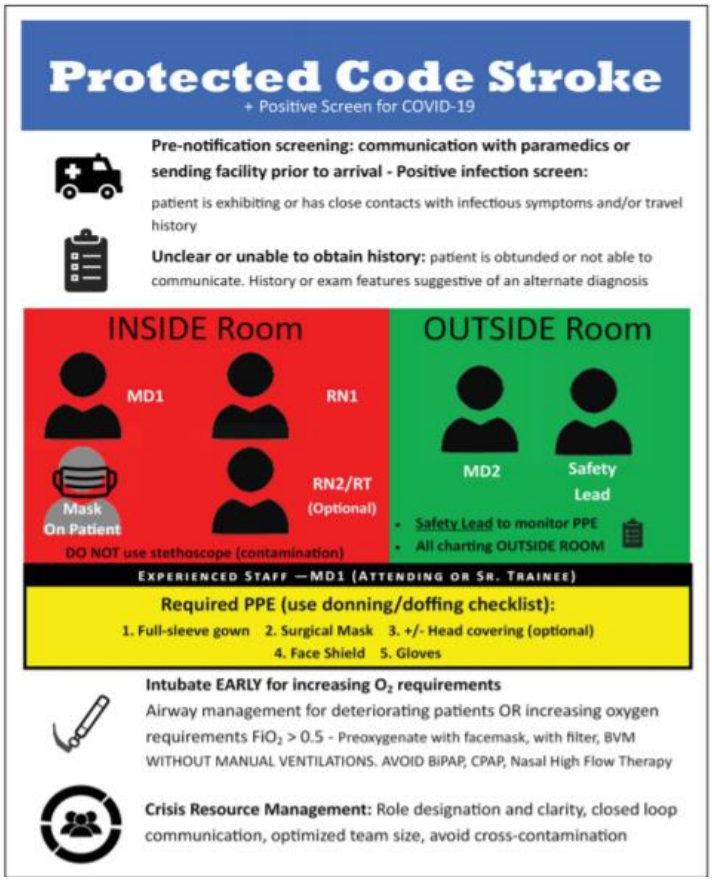
The CDC has released recommendations to wear cloth face covering in public settings where social distance measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission click here, and a report from the Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI) recommends extended use of N95 masks, rather than reuse click here

NICE released four new COVID-19 rapid guidelines over the weekend:

- Two were community based guidelines for managing COVID-19 symptoms for patients in the community – one for end of life care click here, and one for pneumonia care planning, assessment and management click here
- The other two provide more specific guidance on rheumatological autoimmune, inflammatory and metabolic bone disorders click here and severe asthma click here

The Australian National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce has developed a living guidelines repository click here (CIU will track pertinent information and outputs in the repository)

Figure1: Hyperacute stroke management during the COVID-19 pandemic



Twitter

The key twitter activity over the weekend:

1. Remote assessment tool in primary care available in 11 languages https://tinyurl.com/w8bz5jy @trishgreenhalgh
2. Organising health workforce and ongoing support- weekly webinar by NHS England and Improvement https://tinyurl.com/tblrq84 @helenbevan
3. Learnings across the country from large metro, regional and rural health services as they outline how they have prepared for the COVID-19 peak https://tinyurl.com/vfsjd6e @MJA_Editor
4. A global public health effort to track health outcomes of intubations among anaethesists and others caring for COVID-19 patients https://tinyurl.com/vj6m3dw @IntubateCovid
5. Building on the new evidence that ~25% or more of COVID-19 infections are in asymptomatic carriers who shed surgical facemasks could prevent transmission of human coronaviruses from symptomatic individuals, mounting discussion on the length and use in asymptomatic patients https://tinyurl.com/t2aeeyo @EricTopol @PaulGlasziou and others