Daily evidence digest

15 April 2020

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

Respiratory and diabetes guidance, infection control and underreporting

JAMA Network journals feature three articles:

- A review of pharmacologic treatments for COVID-19 here
- A viewpoint article on oncology practice during the pandemic here
- An investigation into the association between public health interventions and epidemiology in Wuhan, China here.

A scoring system has been developed by surgeons in the US to support ethical and efficient management of resources and provider risk. The system integrates factors to facilitate decision-making and triage for medically necessary and time sensitive procedures here.

Researchers from the US have proposed a model for evaluating underreporting of COVID-19 in various countries here.

Evidence reviews have been published on:

- the use of masks by the general public to impede COVID-19 transmission here
- immunotherapy, immunoglobulins and plasma therapy here
- COVID-19 clinical presentation and management here
- managing supportive care needs, including symptom relief and psychological support here.

NICE has released guidelines on community-based care of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease here, cystic fibrosis here and on dermatological conditions treated with drugs affecting the immune response here.

Public Health England released:

- stepdown guidance on infection prevention and control precautions for patients recovering or recovered from COVID-19 in hospital here
- updated advice to ambulance staff, including cardiac arrest and patient handover here
- PPE (including approved use of disposable coveralls as an equivalent alternative to non-surgical disposable gowns here.

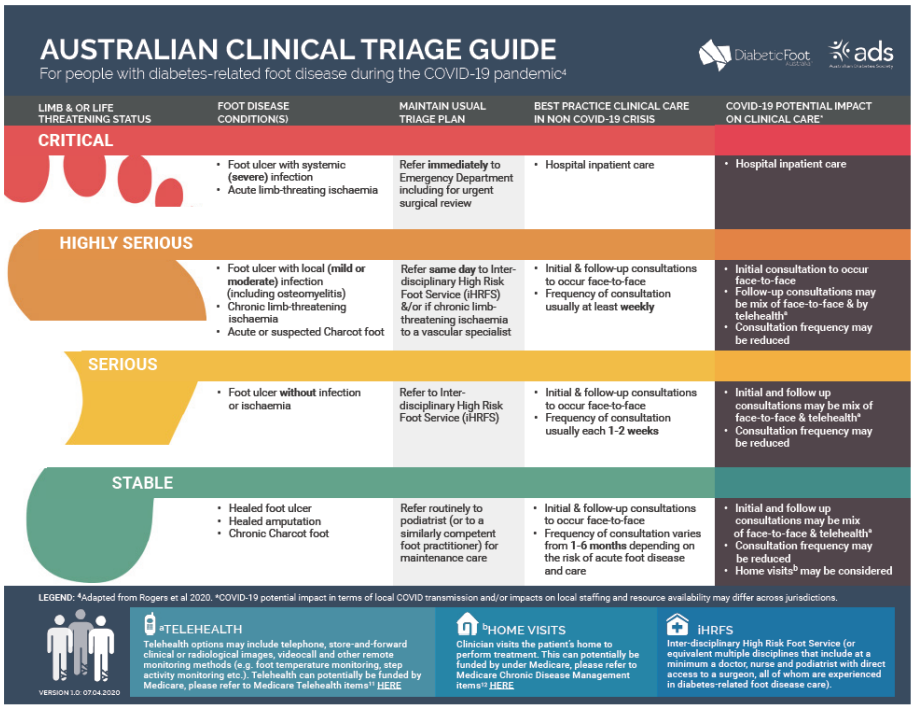
New or updated advice from Colleges and faculties includes:

- The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners published guidance on COVID-19 infection-control principles here and diabetes management during the pandemic here
- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists released position statements on artificial intelligence, appropriate use of CT; advising against routine chest CT scans on patients undergoing emergency surgery here

- The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand updated its position statement on the management of cardiac electrophysiology and cardiac implantable electronic devices here
- The UK's Royal College of Pathologists published an algorithm for symptomatic staff and household testing here
- The UK's Royal College of Physicians released guidance on ethical dimensions for frontline staff managing resource allocations in hospitals here
- The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians advised on point of care ultrasounds here
- General Surgeons of Australia developed a decision tree as part of their advice for general surgery here
- The UK Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have updated their guidelines here including recommendations on prophylactic low molecular weight heparin to reduce risk of venous thromboembolism with COVID-19 infection in pregnancy, self-monitoring of blood pressure here and midwife-led births here

Diabetic Foot Australia and Australian Diabetes Society released the Clinical Triage Guide for People with Diabetes-related Foot Disease to help clinicians who are triage and provide care (Figure 1) here

Figure 1: Clinical triage guide for people with diabetes-related foot disease



Twitter

Between 10 and 13 April, three hashtags gained particular traction:

- #maskforall: ongoing discussion on efficacy of masks here
- #infodemic: discussion about the volume, accuracy and speed of information and changing advice on COVID-19 on the Internet and Twitter here
- #properPPE: a campaign initiated by the BMJ (@bmj_latest) to source experiences and stories about personal protective equipment here