

# Core brief

## **Daily COVID-19 Update (25 March 2020)**

We are committed to ensuring that staff have the information they need to know to respond to the current COVID-19 situation. We have widened out the Core Brief distribution to include nhs.net emails so apologies if you receive the Core Brief twice but we want to ensure everyone receives them.

Please keep up-to-date with the latest guidance on our dedicated web pages at: [www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/covid19). We are continually updating these webpages with new information and ask colleagues to check this regularly.

If staff have any individual questions, please email [staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:staff.covid19@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)

## **Staff testing**

Work is underway to establish staff testing for priority staff groups which will see us test staff who are in self-isolation because a family member is symptomatic. The arrangements for testing staff are being finalised and we will share more details of this in the coming days. In the meantime, can colleagues ensure that your details, including mobile phone numbers, are up to date on eESS <https://www.eess.nhs.scot/ess/> as if you are tested then the results of the test will be given in a text message.

## **Visiting now suspended**

We have now suspended visiting at all hospitals in order to protect patients and staff from COVID-19. This comes into effect immediately.

All wards are asked to remove previous restricted visiting signage. New posters will be created and distributed.

This suspension applies to all visitors with the following groups exempted as essential visitors:

- One birthing partner, during labour, who must remain within the maternity area at all times.
- Parents of children who are inpatients or attending an outpatient appointment. Parents should remain with their child at all times during the visit.
- One person to support someone with a mental health issue such as dementia, a learning disability or autism where not being present would cause the patient to be distressed.
- One family member of those receiving end of life care.

Arrangements for those in the above categories to visit should be made through the nurse in charge in the ward. Only one visitor can attend at any given time. No children are permitted to visit.

## **Death certification**

New guidance has now been published on Death Certification during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

This guidance sets out a number of principles to be adopted as follows:

- It is intended to adopt uniform terminology of the disease and the virus, and support the reduction in time to provide the Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death (MCCD/Form 11) during this challenging time.
- The use of the terms COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 infection in MCCD/Form 11 is acceptable.
- As COVID-19 disease is a notifiable disease, the hazards box on the MCCD/Form 11 (DH1) as always, should be ticked.
- 8. 3(d) of COPFS guidance - 'Reporting deaths to the Procurator Fiscal - Information and Guidance to Medical Practitioners', requires certifying doctors to report a death to the Procurator Fiscal (PF), where the individual dies of a disease or organism which poses an acute and serious risk to public health due to either a Notifiable Infectious Disease or Organism in terms of Schedule 1 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008. COPFS has decided that, with immediate effect, the exception to this are deaths due to COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 infection or presumed COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- This suspension will be reviewed at the end of July 2020 and a decision will be taken at that time to either revert to the status quo or extend the suspension as appropriate.
- Certifying doctors do not require to report a death to the PF where a person has COVID-19 disease or presumed COVID-19 disease and the death falls under another category defined by section 3 of the guidance to medical practitioners e.g. death in prison.
- The PF box in the MCCD/Form 11 should not be ticked.

[The full guidance is available to read here](#) and all medical practitioners are asked to familiarise themselves with it.

### **Infection control guidance on screening for patients**

Can we remind staff that you should only take a screen for COVID-19 if the patient is symptomatic i.e. **a high temperature and or a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual). Taking screens too early may lead to a false negative result and potentially lead to false sense of reassurance. Only take the screen if patients are symptomatic. The following short video has been produced by Health Protection Scotland to support colleagues required to obtain an upper respiratory tract diagnostic sample. <https://youtu.be/qPRuKEzzz40>

### **Health and Social Care COVID-19 update**

[Click here](#) to link to the latest Health and Social Care COVID-19 update from Scottish Government.

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.  
A full archive of printable PDFs are available on [StaffNet](#)**