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Department
of Health &
Social Care

Department of Health and Social Care: COVID-19 testing in general practice

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-testing-in-general-practice>

Information for general practices on providing coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Department of Health and Social Care: PPE portal: how to order COVID-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) (Updated 5th November)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ppe-portal-how-to-order-emergency-personal-protective-equipment>

Updated order limit information for all sectors to reflect changes to visitor orders; updated order limit information for GPs, domiciliary care providers, residential care homes, dentists, orthodontists, community drug and alcohol services and residential drug and alcohol services to reflect recent increases; added FFP mask order limits for dentists and orthodontists.

Department of Health and Social Care: Temporary approval to suspend the need for signatures on prescriptions, dental and ophthalmic forms

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/temporary-approval-to-suspend-the-need-for-signatures-on-prescriptions-dental-and-ophthalmic-forms>

Temporary approval to suspend the need for patients to sign prescription, dental and ophthalmic forms for a period of 5 months to 31 March 2021.

ICM Anaesthesia COVID-19

ICM Anaesthesia COVID-19: Clinical guide for the management of critical care for adults with COVID-19 during the Coronavirus pandemic (28 October 2020, version 4)

<https://icmanaesthescovid-19.org/clinical-guide-for-the-management-of-critical-care-for-adults-with-covid-19-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

This clinical guidance provides contemporary information for practising clinicians caring for critically ill adult patients with COVID-19. Whilst many of these patients will be cared for on intensive care units, some patients receiving continuous positive airways pressure (CPAP) and/or non-invasive ventilation (NIV) may be cared for on specialist respiratory wards. Version 4 updates the previous FICM and ICS guideline published in June 2020.

Institute for Government: Performance Tracker 2020

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/performance-tracker-2020>

The coronavirus crisis has resulted in backlogs across public services, including at record levels in the criminal courts. The government needs a plan to address these and should provide funding to make permanent the successful reforms introduced during the pandemic.

This report, published with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, analyses the disruptions in hospitals, general practice, adult social care, schools and criminal courts, and the changes made in response.

BMJ Best Practice

BMJ Best Practice: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000201>

This BMJ Best Practice topic was updated on 4th November.

BMJ Best Practice: Management of coexisting conditions in the context of COVID-19

<https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000190>

This BMJ Best Practice topic was updated on 4th November.

Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis: Venous thromboembolism in critically ill COVID-19 patients receiving prophylactic or therapeutic anticoagulation: a systematic review and meta-analysis

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11239-020-02235-z#Abs1>

Further study into anticoagulant selection, dosing regimens, and monitoring are needed in this important population of critically ill COVID-19 patients admitted to intensive care units. Until prospective or randomised studies with a clear description of baseline factors and adequate follow up, the best approach for managing venous thromboembolism (VTE) will be uncertain. Individualised rather than protocolised thromboprophylaxis would appear prudent at interim. Besides, maintaining a strong index of suspicion for VTE and the possibility of chemoprophylaxis failure is recommended. Likewise, future studies may investigate the effectiveness of anti-factor Xa-guided or thromboelastography (TEG)/rotational thromboelastometry (ROTEM)-based heparin dosing in reducing the high prevalence of thromboprophylaxis failure in COVID-19 patients.

Library & Knowledge Service

St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Nightingale House, Whiston Hospital

email: library@sthk.nhs.uk tel: 0151 430 1342

website: <http://www.knowledge-nw.nhs.uk/Pages/home.aspx>