

NH Risk Stratification Tool to Guide Level of Care for Adult Patients with COVID 19

Purpose: To develop guidance with clinical criteria to help physicians determine which patients should be admitted to hospital and what level of care they might require.

This document DOES NOT replace clinical judgement for decisions to admit to hospital or referrals/transfers to ICU

Mild illness: fever, fatigue, cough (with or without sputum production), anorexia, malaise, muscle pain, sore throat, nasal congestion, headache or mild GI symptoms. Do not require supplemental O₂ or an increase in baseline O₂ needs to maintain O₂ Sat greater than 92% (90% if chronic lung disease)

Moderate/Severe Symptoms

Mild Symptoms

Moderate

Stable but with respiratory and/or systemic symptoms/ signs:

1. Severe weakness/ fatigue, persistent cough, febrile
2. Clinical or radiological signs of lung involvement but no respiratory impairment
3. O₂ Sat greater than 92% (90% if chronic lung disease) on O₂ up to 4L/min

Severe

Unstable and with respiratory and/or systemic symptoms/signs:

1. Respiratory rate of 30 breath/min or greater
2. O₂ Sat of 92% or lower at rest (90% or lower if chronic lung disease)
3. PaO₂/FiO₂ of 300 or less

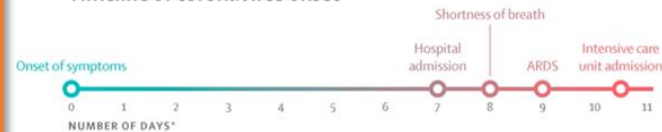
Patients can initially present with hypoxia with out signs of respiratory failure but can deteriorate rapidly.

Manage at home

Do not require hospital admission

- a) Self isolation
- b) Access to acute care in a timely manner if their health status deteriorates
 - This can be done in patient's own home or alternate lodging where needed

Timeline of coronavirus onset



Admit/Transfer to COVID-19 Designated Area/Site

Refer to NH [Transfer Algorithm](#) and [Transport Pathway](#) for COVID-19

Moderate

Severe

Consult ICU
(call PTN 1-866-233-2337)

Critically ill Patient
(Need for resuscitation)

Patient requiring FiO₂ of 40% (6L/min) or greater to maintain O₂ Sat of 92% or greater (90% or greater if chronic lung disease)

OR
Has rapidly worsening tachycardia or hypoxemia
OR
Is hemodynamically unstable

1. Initiate Admission Order Set Non-ICU [[10-800-5003](tel:10-800-5003)]
2. Refer to [NH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#) for more information
3. **Consider early consultation with ICU (call PTN 1-866-233-2337)**
4. Watch for **markers of clinical progression:**
Rapid decline in respiratory function (O₂ needs greater than 4L/min)

Rapid clinical deterioration may occur in ABSENCE of these risk factors for progression to severe illness:

- 55 years and older
- Lung disease (e.g., COPD, asthma)
- Cardio and cerebrovascular disease
- Renal or hepatic disease
- Immunosuppression (disease related or drug induced)
- Diabetes
- Pregnancy

NB: Day 5 – 8 after symptom onset; typical timeframe for progression in severity

- Call PTN 1-866-233-2337 and Press "1" for LLTO
- State "Suspected COVID-19 (Coronavirus)"

Refer URGENTLY to ICU/Regional Triage Intensivist*

- Consult an intensivist early and consider early intubation by an experienced intubator
1. Initiate Admission Order Set for ICU (COVID19) [[10-800-5001](tel:10-800-5001)]
 2. Refer to [NH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#) and [NH Guideline for patients with Respiratory Failure](#) for more information