

## **Guiding Principles for Palliation of COVID-19 (positive and presumed positive) Patients in Acute Care Facilities**

1. Patients are determined to require palliation in a health care facility based on primary care provider assessment that higher level of care is required.
2. Consideration required to ensure patient is cared for as close to their home community as possible.
3. Patients have M1/M2 status (Refer to [Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment and Advanced Care Planning Clinical Practice Standard](#))
4. Focus is on exceptional and aggressive symptom management versus curative/treatment.
5. Consideration of grief and bereavement and impact on patient/family is a priority.

### **Space “COVID Comfort Care Area/Unit”**

- Separate space (where available) from patients being acutely treated/managed for COVID-19 due to the differences in philosophy of care and patient needs.

### **Ensure access to:**

- Medications for symptom management/oxygen
- CADD or infusion pumps
- PPE
- Essential Visitors: Essential visits include visits for compassionate care for end-of-life and during critical illness. End-of-life visits are restricted to patients who are expected to pass within hours or days. Visits as described above are appropriate if they are vital to the wellbeing of the patient and their family.
- Technology - Family may also choose to use technology when they are unable to visit in person. This may include the use of telephone calls or virtual visits using smartphones or tablets. Staff should support these practices.
- Support for grief/bereavement for patients and families, including virtual options.
- Access to Specialist guidance and consultation (including virtual support options)
- Standardized symptom guidelines – algorithm/Order Sets
- Staff with palliative care experience or staff that are given basic education on palliative care for COVID-19 patients
- Interdisciplinary care - physicians/nurses/pharmacists/mental health clinicians/grief support
- Specialist support for virtual guidance and consultation