

NHS ENGLAND AND NHS IMPROVEMENT COVID-19 UPDATE ISSUE NO 2



Here is an update of the work we are doing in response to COVID-19, including that undertaken with our partners. We will continue to share information with you regularly via email. If you have any queries relating to any of this content, please contact england.covid-eolc@nhs.net.

Key messages and updates

Hospice funding announcement

On 8 April 2020, the Chancellor announced that up to £200m will be made available over the next three months, to enable hospices across England to continue to provide critical support to people at this time. Read the [full Government announcement](#) here and the [Hospice UK response](#).

Discussing unwelcome news – a framework for communication

A number of short films have been developed by experienced clinical staff about how they would have a conversation relating to COVID-19 scenarios. These resources have been shared on the [HEE e-Learning for Healthcare \(e-LfH\) hub](#). Links to these resources are now also available on the Secondary Care and Community areas of the NHS E/I Coronavirus pages.

Maintaining standards and quality of care in pressurised circumstances

Chief Nursing Officer for England, Ruth May, and National Medical Officer, Steve Powis, [jointly published a letter](#) on 7 April 2020 and this includes important information about DNACPR orders – we encourage you to both read and share.

Advance care planning guidance and templates

Published as appendix 7 of the [GP standard operating procedure update on 5 April 2020](#). We will also be sharing these as a standalone publication over the coming days.

Updated guidance on COVID-19 prioritisation within community health services

Community health services are vital to the COVID-19 response. [This guidance](#) details which community health services should stop, partially stop or continue so that providers can release capacity to support the COVID-19 response, and has recently been updated in line with developing clinical advice. To easily identify the most significant changes, it is accompanied by a change log which records additions, removals and changes to categorisation of services.

Visitor guidance

This was updated on 8 April 2020, and can be [accessed here](#).

Our NHS People

This fantastic [support and resource hub](#) is regularly updated to help staff find out what support, guides and helplines are available. Current offers include free access to apps, a wellbeing helpline and text alternative to name a few. It's so important that staff are reminded to manage their own health and wellbeing whilst looking after others.

Upcoming guidance

We are working on a number of publications and we hope to be able to share the following with you over the coming days and weeks:

- Symptom management for children and young people with COVID-19
- Standard operating procedure for medication – alternative to syringe drivers
- Standard operating procedure for community palliative care services
- Standard operating procedure for children and young people hospice inpatient units
- Standard operating procedure for verification of death in a period of emergency
- Information to support unpaid carers looking after someone with palliative or end of life care at home

Publications and guidance produced by other organisations

NICE rapid guidelines for community care

Published 3 April 2020 - [COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing symptoms \(including at the end of life\) in the community](#).

Wellbeing plan from the National Academy of Social Prescribing

This [Personalised Wellbeing Plan template](#) has been developed to support people through COVID-19, particularly those who are self-isolating or shielding. It can be used by anyone who is self-isolating, family, friends, healthcare professionals and carers to summarise a person's personal circumstances, and the things that matter most to them at this time.

Reminder of NHSE/I PEOLC guidance published so far

[Clinical specialty guide for palliative and end of life care in secondary care - published 28 March 2020](#).

The Personalised Care Group

Palliative and End of Life Care Team