

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

Guideline scope

COVID-19 rapid guideline: chronic kidney disease

1 Clinical question

How should care be provided for the clinical areas identified for patients with confirmed COVID-19, suspected COVID-19 or without COVID-19?

2 What the guideline will cover

2.1 *Who is the focus?*

Adults with chronic kidney disease (stages G1 to G5).

2.2 *Activities, services or aspects of care*

Key areas that will be covered

For each of the clinical areas where guidance is developed, we may look at areas including, but not limited to:

- 1 General measures to reduce exposure (of staff and patients) to infection.
- 2 Triage and prioritising treatment.
- 3 Areas of the patient pathway (home to hospital, for example) for which management will be different due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4 Deployment of other non-specialist trained staff to deliver services if workforce capacity is reduced.

For the guidelines covering critical care only, the areas may specifically include:

- 5 Decision making for critical care.

[See appendix A for details of the key themes and questions.](#)

Key areas that will not be covered

- 1 Clinical management of COVID-19 because this is already covered in guidance produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement.
- 2 Service delivery.
- 3 Specific guidance on the training requirements for staff to deliver care if workforce capacity is reduced.

2.3 *Principles of identifying where guidance is required and developing this guidance*

- 1 Assess the standard patient pathway and identify areas of deviation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 Curate any existing guidance on the specific clinical area that deviates from the standard care pathway and collate it in an accessible format.
- 3 Search for evidence to inform practice if there is no guidance, or there is uncertainty, on the clinical area that deviates from the standard care pathway.
- 4 Identify what people need to stop doing, start doing and do more of as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that is different from standard clinical practice.

Appendix A Proposed key themes and key questions for the guideline

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) (wave 8)

Population	Adults with chronic kidney disease (stages G1 to G5).
Key themes to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring CKD • Management and self-management of CKD • Referral to specialist nephrology services • Information and education • Chronic kidney disease after COVID-19
Themes to exclude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients already on dialysis • Patients with a kidney transplant
Key questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What frequency of eGFR and ACR monitoring tests is most appropriate during the COVID-19 pandemic? • When can phone or virtual clinics in combination with self-management (including home blood-pressure monitoring) be safely used instead of face-to-face contact? • Should patients discontinue ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, diuretics or other medicines if they develop severe symptoms of COVID-19? • What indications are sufficiently urgent to be referred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to renal outpatients – for renal ultrasound – for hospital admission during the COVID-19 pandemic? • What additional information or resources should be provided to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic? • Should patients with CKD be assessed after COVID-19 for progression of their CKD?

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