COVID-19 recovery

September 18th 2020

**Title**: Identifying older people most vulnerable to COVID-19

British Geriatrics Society | 7th September 2020

This paper aims to summarise the concerns raised by the BGS about current government advice concerning those at greatest risk of the most adverse COVID-19 outcomes, which includes older people, and includes recommendations for how these should be taken forward.

Summary recommendations

1. Risk modelling being considered by the CMO should consider the discriminatory value of phenotypic or cumulative deficit frailty for identifying older people who are clinically extremely vulnerable.
2. Risk modelling being considered by the CMO for deployment into populations of older people with the recommendation that they isolate/shield should also include a balancing measure of risk of isolation leading to adverse health (physical, mental and cognitive) and functional outcomes in the target population.

Full detail: [Identifying older people most vulnerable to COVID-19](https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/identifying-older-people-most-vulnerable-to-covid-19)

**TITLE:**  RESTORING SERVICES: NHS ACTIVITY TRACKER

NHS Providers | September 2020

NHS Providers has published its activity tracker, which spotlights examples of the innovations trusts and their staff are developing to improve capacity, and respond to unmet demand despite the constraints created by COVID-19.

Factors which have an impact on capacity include:

* a drop in the numbers of people seeking help during the height of the pandemic and a significant reduction in the number of GP appointments resulting in fewer referrals to secondary care
* reduced capacity across the NHS due to necessary infection control measures (such as regular deep cleaning), social distancing and additional PPE requirements
* changes in clinical practice in response to COVID-19
* changes in patient behaviour in response to COVID-19 which mean that for a range of reasons people can be less confident about seeking help or treatment.

The tracker also highlights the latest trends in how much activity has been undertaken and how long patients have been waiting, against a range of waiting time access standards.

Full document: [Restoring services: NHS activity tracker](https://nhsproviders.org/media/690161/restoring-services-briefing-nhs-activity-tracker.pdf)

**TITLE**: ENCOURAGING SELF-ISOLATION TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

British Psychological Society | September 2020 |

The Society has produced guidance to encourage self-isolation to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Self-isolation is a key part of the UK strategy to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by people who are symptomatic and have tested positive, and for those who are at risk of developing Covid-19 due to having had close contact with someone with symptoms or a positive test.

The Society's learning from other behaviours (e.g. non-adherence to medication), from relevant psychological theories and from research studies exploring the factors affecting self-isolation in infectious disease pandemics have informed this document. A number of recommendations are made. Full detail: [Guidance: Encouraging self-isolation to prevent the spread of Covid-19](https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Encouraging%20self-isolation%20to%20prevent%20the%20spread%20of%20Covid-19.pdf)

**Title**: The NHS workforce strategy in context

Centre for Mental Health | 11th September 2020

There is growing evidence that demand for mental health support will increase in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to respond to this demand and deliver existing commitments to grow mental health services as part of the NHS Long Term Plan, more mental health practitioners must be recruited.

This short briefing explores the recently published interim NHS workforce strategy, *We are the NHS: People Plan 2020/21 - action for us all*, and looks ahead to the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review to discuss the opportunities and challenges which lie ahead.

The briefing discusses the significant gaps between targets for workforce expansion set by successive workforce strategies and current progress on recruitment. It highlights the need to invest in recruitment and to protect workforce wellbeing within the NHS. And it advocates for Government and local systems to look further afield at the contribution, growth and sustainability of the non-NHS workforce, especially within voluntary and community sector providers which are facing unprecedented strain.

Full briefing: [The NHS workforce strategy in context](https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/download/CentreforMH_NHSWorkforceStrategy_0.pdf)

**Title:** More than £500 million for social care to reduce coronavirus transmission over winter

Department of Health and Social Care | 17th September 2020

Care providers in England will benefit from over half a billion pounds extra funding to reduce COVID-19 transmission and help protect residents and staff throughout winter.

The Infection Control Fund, set up in May, has now been extended until March 2021, with an extra £546 million to help the care sector restrict the movement of staff between care homes to stop the spread of the virus.

The fund will help care providers pay staff full wages when they are self-isolating, and enable staff to work in only one care home, reducing the risk of spreading the infection.

Full detail: [More than £500 million for social care to reduce coronavirus transmission over winter](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-500-million-for-social-care-to-reduce-coronavirus-transmission-over-winter?utm_source=470e8d46-06f8-437d-8dff-46d393a3c962&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

**Title:** Long covid: doctors call for research and surveillance to capture disease

BMJ | 2020; 370: m3586 | published 15th September 2020

A group of doctors who have been affected by persistent symptoms of covid-19 have written a manifesto based on their personal experiences.

In a letter published in The BMJ, the group of 39 UK doctors called for research and surveillance to capture the full spectrum of disease, including in those not admitted to hospital and not tested, to build an accurate picture of covid-19 phenotypes. They said that there was an emerging picture that prolonged symptoms were having substantial effects on a significant minority of people and that death was not the only outcome to measure. They called for a clear definition of recovery from covid-19.

Full detail: [Long Covid: doctors call for research and surveillance to capture disease](https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3586)

See also: [From doctors as patients: a manifesto for tackling persisting symptoms of covid-19](https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/370/bmj.m3565.full.pdf) | BMJ

**Title:** RECOVERY trial will evaluate “antiviral antibody cocktail”

BMJ | 2020; 370: m3584 | published 15th September 2020

The RECOVERY trial, which discovered that dexamethasone shows benefit in patients seriously ill with covid-19, will investigate the impact of an “antiviral antibody cocktail” specifically designed for covid-19, known as REGN-COV2.

The phase III trial at the University of Oxford has been evaluating different treatment candidates for the virus from early on in the pandemic. Its researchers have now announced that it will assess the effects of adding REGN-COV2 to the usual standard of care, versus standard care alone, on all cause mortality 28 days after randomisation.

The investigation, which will aim to have at least 2000 patients randomly allocated to receive REGN-COV2, will also look at the impact on hospital stay and the need for ventilation.

Full detail: [RECOVERY trial will evaluate “antiviral antibody cocktail”](https://www.bmj.com/content/370/bmj.m3584)

**Title:** Keeping people safe and supported through the pandemic

Care Quality Commission | 16th September 2020

In their latest COVID-19 Insight report, the CQC focus on infection prevention and control (IPC) in different health and care settings, and the ways services across 11 different local areas have collaborated in response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

The report looks at good practice in health and social care. In acute hospitals, it shares good practice around establishing IPC teams, personal protection equipment, and the ways hospitals have supported patients and visitors.

The report shares CQC findings from recent inspections in care homes, looking at safe admission, IPC for visitors, IPC policies and use of personal protective equipment.

It also looks at GPs and their IPC measures, including PPE and cleaning procedures, social distancing and minimising patient contact, and guidance/communication around coronavirus.

Full report: [Keeping people safe and supported through the pandemic](https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20200916_covidinsight_issue04.pdf)

**Title:** New plan to help protect care homes from coronavirus over winter

Department of Health & Social Care | 18th September 2020

A new adult social care winter plan will aim to curb the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in care settings throughout the winter months.

As part of the plan:

* people receiving adult social care and care workers will receive free PPE
* a new dashboard will monitor care home infections and help local government and providers respond quicker
* a Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care will be appointed to represent social care nurses and provide clinical leadership to the workforce

Local providers must restrict all but essential movement of staff between settings to reduce transmission, supported by an extra £546 million for the Infection Control Fund. This will help care providers pay staff full wages and enable staff to work in only one care home.

Full detail: [New plan to help protect care homes from coronavirus over winter](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plan-to-help-protect-care-homes-from-coronavirus-over-winter?utm_source=3a9159e8-1108-4ea3-b7db-999303c06713&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

**Title**: Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 18 September 2020

Office for National Statistics | 18th September 2020

Indicators from the Opinions and Lifestyle Survey covering the period 9 to 13 September 2020 to understand the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on people, households and communities in Great Britain.

Full detail: [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain: 18 September 2020](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/18september2020)

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[TRFT Library & Knowledge Service](https://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/) aim to bring together the latest guidelines, research and news on Covid-19 through our [Covid-19 portal](https://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/coronavirus.html). For daily updates on Covid-19 visit our '[Latest Health](https://trfthealthweeklydigest.wordpress.com/)' newsfeed, or use the hashtag [#covid19rftlks](https://twitter.com/hashtag/covid19rftlks?src=hashtag_click) to see our latest tweets on Covid-19 research, guidelines and news.

We also produce a range of subject-specific news feeds to ensure our clinical and professional teams stay up to date with developments in their work areas. Please visit our [website](http://www.trftlibraryknowledge.com/) for more information

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