

OXFORD WARD GUIDANCE FOR JUNIOR DOCTORS

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BACKGROUND

- Evidence based guidance for management of patients with COVID-19 was lacking at a time when the demand for such guidance is in greatest demand.
- Many hospitals had to repurpose pre-existing wards to cope with the pandemic including covid-19 specific wards designed to reduce in-hospital spread, to protect at risk patients and provide high intensity therapies like ventilation.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

- We conducted a quality improvement project to measure and develop guidance designed to prepare junior and middle-grade doctors working in a newly formed covid-19 high dependency unit named Oxford Ward at the William Harvey Hospital, Kent, UK.
- This guidance aimed to mitigate the challenges of weekly staff turnover, varying skills-mix and rapid patient turnaround.

METHODOLOGY

- We produced guidance covering the ward setup and current best clinical practice that was then shared with the incoming team.
- The incoming team was then able to make their own revisions to this document, ultimately being revised three times, to include updates in best practice such as new research or changes in ward set up.
- The value of this guidance in its early iterations was measured using two surveys to create an evidence base for it and aid its development.

METHODOLOGY

Contents

- Introduction
- Patient Criteria
- Team Composition
- Ward Round
- Handover
 - Oxford Careflow Patient Entry Proforma
 - Example
- Investigations
 - COVID Swab
 - Bloods
 - Atypical Pneumonia Screen
 - Blood Gases
 - Imaging
- Treatment
 - Medications
 - Oxygen Therapy and Non-Invasive Ventilation
 - Fluids
- Referral for RECOVERY Trial
- Communication with Patients' Family
- End of Life Care
- De-isolation and Discharge Guidelines
- Training/Portfolio Opportunities
- Monitoring
- Equality Analysis
- References
- Authors and Contributors

RESULTS

Question 1: How much understanding did you have of the specific requirements, expectations and needs of doctors working on Oxford ward prior to starting there?

	Survey 1	Survey 2
None at all	31.25%	0%
A little	31.25%	0%
A moderate amount	37.5%	86%
A lot	0%	10%
A great deal	0%	4%

Question 2: How helpful is this guidance for doctors arriving on the ward for the first time?

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Extremely helpful	31.25%	42.86%
Very helpful	56.25%	57.14%
Somewhat helpful	6.25%	0.00%
Not so helpful	6.25%	0.00%
Not at all helpful	0.00%	0.00%

Question 3: Would you recommend reading this guidance to new doctors arriving on Oxford ward?

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Definitely would	75.00%	100.00%
Probably would	25.00%	0.00%
Ambivalent	0.00%	0.00%
Probably would not	0.00%	0.00%
Definitely would not	0.00%	0.00%

Question 4: Do you think awareness of this guidance improves patient care?

	Survey 1	Survey 2
Definitely yes	68.75%	85.71%
Probably yes	31.25%	14.29%
May or may not	0.00%	0.00%
Probably not	0.00%	0.00%
Definitely not	0.00%	0.00%

RESULTS

- The surveys conducted to understand the impact of the guidance showed that the majority of the initial respondents, prior to introduction of the guidance, felt that they had limited understanding of the specific requirements, expectations and needs of doctors working on Oxford ward prior to starting their rotation in the COVID-19 pandemic
- Almost half of the respondents agreed that their unfamiliarity with working in a COVID-19 HDU could impact on patient's care. Therefore, it was understandable why 100% of the respondents agreed that the guidance would help the new doctors arriving on Oxford Ward.

CONCLUSION

- In this quality improvement project we sought to improve patient care by providing doctors joining the Covid-19 HDU ward team with a guidance document of ward-specific protocols and recommendations.
- Our surveys suggest that guidance was being sought by doctors rotating onto the ward and this effort was well-received by doctors on the ward and further improved thanks to their input.

REFERENCES

- Public Health England. Guidance for stepdown of infection control precautions and discharging COVID-19 patients.
- RCPATH. Guidance on the de-isolation and discharge of COVID-19 patients.
- Clinical Handover of Care Policy EKHUFT (East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust) Version 6.0
- COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for EKHUFT (East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust)