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COVID-19 Evidence Update

Date 7th December – 13th December 2020

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Guidelines

[Clarification on the use of Tocilizumab for critically ill patients with COVID-19](#)

Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine/Intensive Care Society; 2020.

<https://www.ficm.ac.uk/news-events-education/news/clarification-use-tocilizumab-critically-ill-patients-covid-19>

[A joint statement from the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Intensive Care Society.]

Freely available online

[Pharmacy Institutional Readiness for Management of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine - Guidance for Chief Pharmacists.](#)

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS); 2020.

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/pharmacy-institutional-readiness-for-management-of-pfizer->

[biontech-covid-19-vaccine-guidance-for-chief-pharmacists/](#)

[Document outlines the medicines management responsibilities of Chief Pharmacists for Mass Vaccination, Hub and Non Hub Trust sites, and to provide supporting guidance and resources in relation to safe storage and distribution and oversight of vaccine handling and preparation.]

Freely available online

Systematic Review / Meta-Analysis

[Alternative clinical specimens for the detection of SARS-CoV-2: A rapid review.](#)

Comber. *Reviews in Medical Virology* 2020;:rmv.2185.

[The collection of nasopharyngeal swabs to test for the presence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is an invasive technique with implications for patients and clinicians. Alternative clinical specimens from the upper respiratory tract may offer benefits. Depending on the test environment, these clinical specimens may offer a viable alternative to standard. However, at present the evidence is limited, of variable quality, and relatively inconsistent.]

Freely available online

[COVID-19 and Skin Manifestations: An Overview of Case Reports/Case Series and Meta-Analysis of Prevalence Studies.](#)

Sameni F. *Frontiers in Medicine* 2020;7:573188 .

[Evaluation of the results of the case reports/case series revealed that, out of 54 patients with COVID-19, 48 patients (88.8%) showed skin manifestations. Erythematous rash (59.1%) and urticaria (14.8%) were the most common skin manifestation reported in studied patients.]

Freely available online

[Cutaneous manifestations of coronavirus disease 2019 in 458 confirmed cases: A systematic review.](#)

Jindal R. *Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care* 2020;9(9):4563-4569 .

[In 10% of cases, skin lesions appeared before systemic manifestations. The most common cutaneous manifestation was macular/maculo-papular rash (42.5%), followed by acute urticaria (17.9%), vesicular rash (15.3%), pseudo-chilblain or acral purpuric lesions (15.1), and livedo-reticularis (4.4%).]

Freely available online

[Dermatologic manifestations of COVID-19: a comprehensive systematic review.](#)

Mirza FN. *International Journal of Dermatology* 2020;:doi: 10.1111/ijd.15168.

[From 86 retrieved studies, we collated data on 2,560 patients with dermatologic manifestations of COVID-19. The most common findings were chilblains/pernio-like lesion (51.5%), erythematous maculopapular rashes (13.3%), and viral exanthem (7.7%).

Dermatologic findings may play an important role in identifying cases early and serve as an important proxy to manage spread.]

Freely available online

Evidence-Based Summary

A COVID-19 vaccine-dare to dream.

Phillis A. *British Journal of Community Nursing* 2020;25(12):2-7.

[Key Points: The global interest in seeking a reliable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine to reduce morbidity and reduce demand for specialist healthcare is a critical factor in the speed and success of collaborative working to achieve this shared goal; A successful COVID-19 vaccination programme is likely to require multiple versions with various methods of storage and administration to achieve the global herd immunity to impact on the prevalence of disease.]

Status of vaccine development for COVID-19.

Mendes A. *British Journal of Community Nursing* 2020;25(12):620-621.

[Thus far, the UK has secured early access to six of the candidate vaccines, totalling 350 million doses (Heffer, 2020), and new information regarding potential vaccines is being uncovered daily. Once a vaccine has been approved, trained vaccinators in community pharmacy will be required (Wickware, 2020), and nurses should remain updated on developments in order to continually support, inform and signpost patients accordingly.]

[Guidelines recommend measures to manage acute and chronic conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic: updated.](#)

BMJ Best Practice; 2020.

<https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000190>

[Further guidelines have been published to inform the management of patients with coexisting conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. New this update: Chronic obstructive lung disease (updated), Diabetes (type 1) (updated), Haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (updated), Substance use disorders (updated). 8 December.]

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[Update on COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

BMJ Best Practice; 2020.

<https://bestpractice.bmj.com/topics/en-gb/3000201>

[Epidemiology: updated data on children and pregnant women; updated risk factors (solid organ transplant). Aetiology: updated data on viral shedding in immunocompromised people. Emerging: WHO Solidarity trial results published; NIH recommends against casirivimab/imdevimab as standard of care for patients with mild to moderate disease; UK trial starts investigating use of colchicine. Prevention: first vaccine authorised for use in the UK; WHO updates guidance on mask use in community settings.]

Available with an NHS OpenAthens password

Reports

[Coronavirus COVID-19 serology and viral detection tests: technical validation reports.](#)

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC); 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-serology-and-viral-detection-tests-technical-validation-reports>

[Findings from technical validations and in-service valuations reviewed by the Technical Validation Group. Published 7 December.]

Freely available online

[The government's approach to test and trace in England – interim report.](#)

National Audit Office (NAO); 2020.

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/the-governments-approach-to-test-and-trace-in-england-interim-report/>

[This interim report provides an overview of test and trace services for addressing COVID-19 in England, including how the government's approach has developed, and how it managed performance and capacity in the period from May to October 2020.]

Original Research

[Repurposed Antiviral Drugs for Covid-19 - Interim WHO Solidarity Trial Results.](#)

WHO Solidarity Trial Consortium. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2020;:NEJMoA2023184..

[These remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir, and interferon regimens had little or no effect on hospitalized patients with Covid-19, as indicated by overall mortality, initiation of ventilation, and duration of hospital stay.]

Freely available online

[Safety and immunogenicity of an inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, BBIBP-CorV: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 1/2 trial.](#)

Xia S. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2020;:https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30831-8.

[The inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine, BBIBP-CorV, is safe and well tolerated at all tested doses in two age groups. Humoral responses against SARS-CoV-2 were induced in all vaccine recipients on day 42. Two-dose immunisation with 4 µg vaccine on days 0 and 21 or days 0 and 28 achieved higher neutralising antibody titres than the single 8 µg dose or 4 µg dose on days 0 and 14.]

Freely available online

Statistics

[A 'new normal'? How people spent their time after the March 2020 coronavirus lockdown.](#)

Office for National Statistics (ONS); 2020.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/anewnormalhowpeoplespenttheirtimeafterthemarch2020coronaviruslockdown/2020-12-09>

[During the first national coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown, many people in Great Britain were forced to make changes to their lifestyles. But it appears that some of those changes may not have lasted long. On the whole, people returned to pre-lockdown behaviour in September to October 2020.]

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