

# TOPICS AND QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TASKFORCE

PUBLISHED  
17 DECEMBER 2020

Feedback to date has included both a wide range of suggestions for questions and topics for inclusion, as well as advice on issues that are outside the scope of the guideline. These are described below.

Newly suggested topics and clinical questions for consideration by the Guidelines Leadership Group	Newly suggested topics and clinical questions that are out of scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hyperimmune immunoglobulin or monoclonal antibody for post and pre exposure</li> </ul>	None this week

Topics that are already prioritised and are included in the living guideline and/or flowcharts, or are under review by the team	Topics that are deprioritised at the moment but can be reviewed again	Cumulative list of suggested topics that are currently out of scope
<p><b>Guideline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Definition of disease severity</li> <li>Disease monitoring and markers of clinical deterioration</li> <li>Modifying Treatments               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antimalarials</li> <li>Antivirals</li> <li>Other disease modifying treatments</li> </ul> </li> <li>Respiratory Support               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECMO</li> <li>HFNO</li> <li>Intubation</li> <li>Monitoring &amp; markers</li> <li>Non-invasive ventilation</li> <li>Neuromuscular blockers</li> <li>Positive end-expiratory pressure</li> <li>Prone positioning</li> <li>Recruitment manoeuvres</li> <li>Videolaryngoscopy</li> </ul> </li> <li>Chemoprophylaxis</li> <li>Ancillary treatments               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACE-I/ARBs</li> <li>Anticoagulants</li> <li>Corticosteroids</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pregnancy and perinatal health-specific questions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mode of birth</li> <li>Rooming in</li> <li>Skin-to-skin</li> <li>Breastfeeding</li> <li>Delayed cord clamping</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pediatric and adolescent-specific questions               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paediatric Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Flowchart</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cardiac arrest protocols</li> <li>Stroke protocols</li> <li>GP triage</li> <li>Nitric oxide</li> <li>Tracheostomy</li> <li>Low tidal volumes</li> <li>Pulse oximetry</li> <li>Older people living with frailty and/or cognitive impairment</li> <li>People receiving palliative care</li> </ul> <p><b>In the process of scoping and/or development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety of surgery after a confirmed COVID-19 infection</li> <li>Contraception and the risk of VTE in women with COVID-19</li> <li>Is care in out of home facilities (e.g. hotel hospitals) more effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19?</li> <li>In patients who have undergone surgery and who contracted COVID-19 pre- or post-operatively, what interventions can reduce the risk of morbidity or mortality?</li> <li>Length of the stand-down period post symptoms of COVID-19 before undergoing elective surgery</li> <li>When should patients be transferred to hospital settings?</li> <li>In neonates, children and adolescents with severe respiratory failure due to COVID-19 receiving invasive ventilation, is high-frequency oscillatory ventilation more effective than conventional invasive ventilation at improving mortality?</li> <li>What long-term symptoms are reported in patients with COVID-19?</li> <li>What mental health interventions are effective at alleviating stress and/or preventing the development of mental health conditions in people with COVID-19?</li> <li>Rehabilitation and post-discharge follow-up               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ICS/LAMA/LABA post recovery of severe COVID</li> <li>Parameters for long-term follow-up</li> </ul> </li> <li>Predictive testing for disease severity</li> <li>Whether hormone replacement therapy should be stopped in transgender people with COVID-19</li> <li>Infection prevention and control               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerosol generating procedures</li> <li>Blood product management</li> <li>Community-based prevention</li> <li>Donation of breastmilk by patients who have COVID-19</li> <li>Environmental cleaning</li> <li>Fit-testing for health care workers who are treating people with COVID-19</li> <li>Home visits</li> <li>Infection control in residential aged care facilities</li> <li>Management of surgical patients not known to be infected with COVID-19</li> <li>Mask wearing of joggers in Victoria</li> <li>Model of care and place of birth</li> <li>Patient transport</li> <li>PPE for staff in ED and rural or remote settings</li> <li>Open versus laparoscopic surgery safety during COVID</li> <li>Role of temperature triaging in GP clinics</li> <li>Screening for cancer patients attending clinics</li> <li>Self-administered testing</li> <li>Special care nurseries</li> <li>Structural design of aged care facilities and schools</li> <li>Swab collection technique</li> <li>Waiting rooms</li> <li>When to see patients who have had COVID-19</li> <li>Transmission mechanism and precautions to prevent nosocomial infections of other patients and health care worker infections.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Echocardiography</li> <li>Fluid management</li> <li>Medication management, including over the counter medicines and psychotropics</li> <li>Ambulance management and transport</li> <li>Nutrition care</li> <li>Sedation protocols</li> <li>Complementary, holistic and integrative medicine, including lifestyle interventions</li> <li>Aspirin as chemoprophylaxis</li> <li>Does open surgical tracheotomy compared to percutaneous tracheostomy reduce the risk of transmission?</li> <li>Retrieval (specifically in rural, remote regions)</li> <li>Treatment of anaemia, secondary to COVID-19</li> <li>Pregnancy and perinatal health-specific questions (note the Pregnancy Panel will review this list regularly)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased risk of postpartum deterioration</li> <li>Presence of support person at birth</li> <li>Management of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy</li> <li>Use of antenatal ultrasound</li> <li>Use of antenatal corticosteroids for preterm birth</li> <li>Target oxygen saturation for women with moderate/severe disease</li> <li>Nitrous oxide for pain relief</li> <li>Water birth / immersion</li> <li>Kangaroo mother care</li> <li>Mucolytics</li> <li>Use of early birth for women with moderate/severe disease</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care in the age of COVID-19               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dose of rocuronium when conducting rapid sequence intubation</li> <li>Side-effects of COVID-19 treatment</li> <li>Pelvic floor prolapse secondary to a COVID-19 infection</li> <li>Prehospital (paramedic) care for suspected COVID-19 patients</li> <li>Sexual health in the age of COVID-19</li> <li>Standardised guidelines of the postoperative febrile patient in the COVID era</li> <li>Cardio-oncology patients in the era of COVID-19</li> <li>Spirometry during COVID</li> </ul> </li> <li>Impact of PPE on health</li> <li>Diagnostic testing               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Auscultation</li> <li>Lung ultrasound vs chest x-ray to triage patients</li> <li>CT scanning to stratify risk for surgery</li> <li>Population testing criteria</li> <li>Saliva testing as a diagnostic method</li> </ul> </li> <li>Organisation of care/ Health services research               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management in residential aged care facilities, specifically keeping a resident in facility versus transfer to hospital</li> <li>Rostering for healthcare workers</li> <li>Patient information</li> <li>Assessing community spread</li> <li>Patient handover</li> <li>Testing of all residents in a residential aged care facility where a positive is confirmed</li> <li>The impact of restrictions on children's therapy services</li> <li>Effect of social distancing measures on the provision and availability of volunteer support services</li> <li>Surgery triage</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mental health care</li> <li>Natural history of COVID-19               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 &amp; Parkinson's Disease (risk of Parkinson's post COVID-19)</li> <li>Presence of swine flu (H1N1 influenza) antibodies</li> <li>Presentation of chilblains</li> </ul> </li> <li>Remote monitoring of patients at home and criteria for admission</li> <li>Virus clearance and immunity               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serological testing for antibodies</li> </ul> </li> <li>Defining at-risk populations</li> <li>Does the flu vaccination increase the risk and severity of a cytokine storm in COVID-19 infections?</li> <li>Roles and responsibilities of healthcare workers</li> <li>Stopping immunotherapy in patients with cancer and COVID-19</li> </ul>

Topics that are already prioritised and are included in the living guideline and/or flowcharts, or are under review team	Patient groups that are already prioritised but are pending action	Suggested patient groups that are not yet considered (or may be out of scope)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People with mild COVID-19 disease</li> <li>People with moderate-severe COVID-19 disease</li> <li>People with critical COVID-19 disease</li> <li>Children or adolescents</li> <li>Pregnant women and women who have recently given birth</li> <li>People living in rural or remote Australia</li> <li>Older people and people receiving palliative care</li> <li>Health care workers</li> <li>People with comorbidities:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>asthma/COPD</li> <li>diabetes</li> <li>cardiovascular disease</li> <li>cancer/immunosuppressed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients receiving dialysis</li> <li>Psychiatric/mental illness</li> <li>Patients with delirium</li> <li>People with disabilities and their carers</li> <li>Multiple co-morbidities</li> <li>People with asymptomatic infection</li> <li>People with possible infection, separate to those with confirmed infection</li> <li>Bereaving family members</li> <li>People with haematological disorders</li> </ul>