

# TOPICS AND QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TASKFORCE

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	Suggested topics and clinical questions already being considered	Newly suggested topics and clinical questions that are out of scope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None this week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treatment with Ivermectin.</li> <li>Ivermectin, doxycycline, zinc (Triple Protocol) for use in prevention and treatment of COVID-19.</li> <li>Will oral Molnupiravir &amp; Astodimer Sodium nasal spray (Viraleze) be added to the list of antivirals to be assessed?</li> </ul>	<p><i>Please refer to the <a href="#">Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)</a> for all vaccine advice.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the use of commercially available air cleaners recommended in COVID wards to increase the clearance of aerosols?</li> <li>Evidence for and against using HEPA filters in enclosed clinic rooms. In particular, in cardiac exercise stress test rooms.</li> <li>Is a past history of Guillian-Barre syndrome a reason to choose Pfizer or Moderna Vaccination in an over 60 year old, vaccine hesitant patient who refuses to have Astra-Zeneca vaccine.</li> <li>Vaccine use in pregnant and breastfeeding women.</li> </ul>
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>Paediatric 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 anosmia, 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> <li>Vaccinations for COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety for primary prevention in immunocompromised individuals</li> <li>In healthcare workers, who have previously been infected SARS-COV2 which has now resolved</li> <li>In pregnant women</li> </ul> </li> <li>Impact of pandemic on the LGBTIQ+ community</li> <li>Appropriateness of Pfizer and Moderna as vaccines for COVID-19</li> <li>Access to bamlanivumab</li> <li>Requirement for test after completing 14 days quarantine following initial positive COVID-19 test</li> <li>Steroids for those on home oxygen and ivermectin</li> <li>Can a model hybrid IPV/cough assist device (Pegaso) be used the same as other open circuit respiratory devices? Can the cough assist mode be used?</li> <li>Can Australia purchase or produce locally Monoclonal Antibodies to be used very early in the SARS -2 -CoV -19 or post or pre exposure by intravenous or subcutaneous administration?</li> <li>Vitamin D to protect against COVID-19 including optimal levels and deficiencies</li> <li>COVID testing for symptomatic fully vaccinated patients</li> <li>Preventative care guidelines particularly guidance on the individual vaccines and the preparations to take vaccines</li> <li>Should people with a history of DVT receive prophylactic anticoagulation before receiving the AstraZeneca COVID vaccine?</li> <li>Clinical minimization of airborne transmission risk through environmental controls, ventilation, filtration and air cleaning</li> <li>Mixing of vaccination doses, i.e. Astrazeneca first and then Pfizer?</li> <li>Booking for a non Astra Zeneca vaccine in over 50's with a letter of medical recommendation from their GP to get a non Astra Zeneca vaccine</li> <li>Use of Virgin Coconut Oil for reduction of COVID transmission, severity and hospitalisations.</li> <li>Should breastfeeding mothers receive COVID vaccines</li> <li>Treatments for COVID vaccine-related side effects</li> <li>Is there material or laboratory proof that the COVID-19 virus exists and has it ever been isolated in the lab</li> <li>Is graphene (or any other electrical conducting matter) contained within any vaccine being used in Australia</li> </ul>
Population groups that are already prioritised and are included in the living guideline and/or flowcharts, or are under review	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>	<p>None</p>	<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>