

The daily evidence digest collates recently released reports and evidence – provision of these links does not imply endorsement nor recommendation.

CPAP, neurosurgery, occupational medicine, surgery, gastroenterology, maintaining essential services, spirometry

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) released information on ventilators, and alternative strategies when they are in short supply - including using emergency ventilators or continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), noting that it would not create undue risks if appropriate mitigations are in place to minimise aerosols [click here](#)

The UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has published its Specification for Rapidly Manufactured CPAP System – for use during the COVID-19 outbreak [click here](#) However, the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists' advice on the use of high-flow nasal oxygenation and mask CPAP or BiPAP is that it should be avoided due to greater risk of aerosol generation [click here](#)

An article by neurosurgeons in Wuhan China outlines processes for preoperative evaluation and management, intra-operative management, and postoperative management [click here](#)

Guidance has been released from various bodies on:

- New fact sheet from the UK Faculty of Occupational Medicine provides advice about staff with an underlying health condition [click here](#)
- New guidance from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons [click here](#) notes that:
 - Emergency operations will be necessary in the COVID-19 outbreak
 - PPE appropriate to patients' COVID-19 risk (if known) must be used
 - Urgent operations (category 1 in NSW) will be required for patients who will come to harm if delayed more than 4 – 6 weeks
 - Depending on the availability of full PPE, a slightly lower level of PPE may be acceptable for patients who are very low risk so that full PPE is conserved for use with higher risk patients
 - Where possible, operations for all other patients should be deferred
 - Select procedures that minimise the risk of resource consuming complications (e.g. consider making a stoma rather than an anastomosis in co-morbid patients)
 - Outpatient appointments should be deferred whenever possible
 - No non-urgent surgery should be undertaken at private hospitals during lockdown.

Characteristics of high risk COVID-19 patients, and operating theatre precautions, are outlined.

- The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases interim guidelines for clinical management of COVID-19 adults [click here](#) focus on hospitalised patients with confirmed COVID-19 cover:
 - Assessment for hospital admission
 - Patient placement and infection control

- Diagnostic work up
- Monitoring of proven or suspected cases
- General management
- Adjunctive and antiviral drugs
- Escalation of care
- Management of respiratory failure
- Discharge planning and release from isolation
- The Gastroenterological Society of Australia recommends limiting endoscopy services to urgent and emergency cases and deferring elective and semi-elective cases. It has released a guide for triaging patients [click here](#)
- The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand and the Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science recommend the suspension of lung function testing such as spirometry [click here](#)
- A group of UK societies and colleges released consensus guidelines on safe airway management for patients with COVID-19. They cover preventing contamination of healthcare workers, the choice of staff involved in airway management, training required, and equipment [click here](#)

Twitter

| Country | Organisational responses and lessons | Source |
|-----------|--|-----------------|
| Europe | A newly established Clinical Management Support System will help healthcare professionals exchange knowledge and experience with COVID-19 cases across Europe https://europa.eu/!Mm49Jp | @EU_Health |
| Australia | Australia's first virtual hospital rolls out for COVID-19 patients https://tinyurl.com/sf6v8jj | @jorm_christine |
| UK | Military planners, engineers, airline staff and volunteers to help staff at the field hospitals https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1290.full | @bmj_latest |
| UK | Is the NHS ready for the surge in cases https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51714498# | @BBCNews |

