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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organisational responses and lessons</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>A newly established Clinical Management Support System will help healthcare professionals exchange knowledge and experience with COVID-19 cases across Europe <a href="https://europa.eu/!Mm49Jp">https://europa.eu/!Mm49Jp</a></td>
<td>@EU_Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Australia’s first virtual hospital rolls out for COVID-19 patients <a href="https://tinyurl.com/sf6v8jj">https://tinyurl.com/sf6v8jj</a></td>
<td>@jorm_christine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Military planners, engineers, airline staff and volunteers to help staff at the field hospitals <a href="https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1290.full">https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1290.full</a></td>
<td>@bmj_latest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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