



COVID-19 Patient Home Health Management Program

Visiting Nurse Health System's (VNHS) *COVID -19 Patient Home Health Management Program* was developed to provide support to patients with early symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 with underlying co-morbidities that place them at risk. Patients are managed by their community physician for skilled care that will be provided by a registered nurse.

Procedure

1. Primary physician screens the patient and identifies the patient as having signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 based on CDC guidelines, including screening for international travel within last 14 days, contact with someone with or under investigation for COVID-19 or lives in a community where the spread of COVID-19 is occurring.
2. Patient falls into the known high-risk groups: age 65 or older, has COPD, cardio-vascular disease, diabetes, obesity or other risk factor identified by the physician.
3. When the patient meets the criteria, a **referral** for home health services can be made to VNHS.

Referral includes: all pertinent diagnosis and clinical information to support a valid face-to-face encounter and VNHS will provide skilled home health services including administering the COVID-19 test as ordered and test results will be communicated directly to the referring physician.

COVID - 19 Patient Home Management Program Protocol

Patients in this program will be managed by a dedicated RN skilled in the care of COVID-19 patients in the home setting. All patients are screened prior to every visit.

Program Goal

To safely manage the patient's less acute COVID-19 symptoms in their home using CDC recommended infection control practices and precautions and provide clinical support to the patient and his/her family during a period of self-isolation, mitigating the spread of the virus.

1. Patient is admitted within 24 hours of physician referral.
2. If a COVID test is ordered, it will be obtained during the initial visit.
3. Focus to prevent the spread of the virus including protecting others in the home, management of patient's co-morbidities and medications
4. VNHS utilizes patient/family teaching materials to ensure consistency in educational content:
 - *Caring for Persons at Home with COVID-19*
 - *Steps to Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19*
 - Disease-specific educational tools
5. VNHS nurse will contact the physician/physician office with changes in the patient's status. If requested by the physician, VNHS will provide weekly patient status updates.
6. If at any time during care the patient develops shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, the patient will be sent to the emergency room for evaluation. Whenever possible, the nurse assigned to the patient will contact the emergency room and alert them that the patient is coming in.

MORE INFORMATION or to MAKE A REFERRAL:

Hospice Atlanta Services 404.869.3000

Home Healthcare Programs 404.215.6000