

Message

From: Karen Hedge [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1F0BE70252AF44D88CF1306E3A53FC20-KAREN.HEDGE]
Sent: 25/03/2020 7:47:09 AM
To: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk; Donald Macaskill [donald.macaskill@scottishcare.org]
CC: [REDACTED]@googlemail.com
Subject: Re: Admissions Criteria for Care Homes

To let you know I have shared with Donald as requested
It's a long one so I will have a read and get back to you.

Karen

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From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.co.uk
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 7:36:12 AM
To: Karen Hedge <karen.hedge@scottishcare.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]@googlemail.com
Subject: Admissions Criteria for Care Homes

Hi Karen/Donald.

I'm so sorry to press you and Donald on this but it's of vital importance(I would appreciate if you could pass it on to Donald as well).

The sector needs much clearer admissions guidance and policy from Central Government/CI on how we can admit Residents.

What we have at present is dangerous.

I appreciate the NHS is at breaking point.
We are there 100% to help.

But we have a duty of care to our Staff and Residents and we are breaking so many codes by being forced to take in admissions the way we are when it's not safe and breaking so many codes by refusing as well.
Dreadful dilemma.

Scottish Care needs to sort at least Guidance for Homes in my view and be much much more specific and proactive to ensure our Sector is acting as correctly and professionally as we can at this unprecedented time.
There's multiple things we could do to make it at least safer.

The NHS/SW Policy seems to be "NHS need the beds so your taking them".
Worrying way to work.

So desperately flawed and I don't like to be emotive but a disaster waiting to happen is probably a balanced phrase to use.

A few worrying points.

Here's what we seemed to be getting told.

- "as long as you keep them isolated in their bedrooms for 7 days".....there's too many flaws to list regarding this so I'm not going to start...but just one is no Care Homes have dedicated staff in dedicated isolation or separation areas.
Cross infection rates of Covid 19 is very high in prepared well trained ICU units and hospital units never mind a communal care home of 50+ beds.

- “as long as staff wear the appropriate PPE” - That’s not possible. No Care Home has the appropriate equipment. None. A low grade face mask, a plastic apron and a pair of latex gloves is not the appropriate equipment for barrier nursing a potential carrier transferred from a high risk area in the middle of a deadly highly contagious Pandemic by a Care Assistant with no training in High Risk Infectious Diseases in a Care Home not equipped or designed for such. .

- “tell your staff to follow barrier nursing/infection control/isolation good practice”...I have friends who are Doctors/Intensive Care Staff/Anaesthetists/Nurse lecturers who are as trained as anyone in this in the very short time anyone has had (and have at least had some training previously for such events) and they feel exposed and underprepared in their PPE management and practice with better equipment. Many are frightened by this disease and it’s potential for spread...never mind an army of Care Home Carers and Elderly Care and Dementia Staff.

Also the position of “if a Resident gets Covid 19 they stay in the Home until they recover or die” is again a real worry - how does that work with the main aim of “protecting our elderly and most vulnerable”??? It may meet the other aim of “protect the NHS” but it doesn’t meet the first one. Again surely there’s a better way.

I don’t have a problem taking Residents.

I absolutely have a problem with how this is being forced on us and implemented.

It’s so flawed I don’t know where to start.

The Horse may well have bolted on this though for some or many Care Homes and their Staff and Residents...but we surely can find a better way from now?

No need for a long answer back.

Everyone’s too busy anyway.

Just need specific safe direction from Public Health/CI/Scottish Care/Government on this.

Share this with whoever you like if it helps.

You want a chat my numbers below.

NR

The Argyll Group.

Irrelevant & Sensitive