

Message

From: [NR] [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=731AE41932914A2B90DAA92EC8CC56DD] [NR]
Sent: 30/03/2020 12:12:53
To: [NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d21258c9254e4e32942f15c21ee78f6f] [NR]
[NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=50d0c9dc3a4a475abae33cbf5eb58e92] [NR]
[NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=5dd53519302f4087b3deb98e28813cef] [NR]
[NR] [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=6b102717503f443580153e22c8a5da58] [NR]
Subject: RE: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Hi [NR]

This is now paused indefinitely, possibly never to be picked up again, now that there is less/no need for it given early signs suggest demand may stay below capacity.

I'll let you know if that changes at any point.

Best

[NR]



[NR]
Private Secretary and Deputy Head of the Office to the Chief Medical Officer – Professor Christopher Whitty
Email: [PD]@dhsc.gov.uk Tel: [I&S]
Mobile: [Personal Data]
Department of Health and Social Care, 7th floor, 39 Victoria Street, SW1H 0EU

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From: [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2020 12:54
To: [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk> [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk> [NR]
[NR]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Cc: [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

[NR] ads on this

From: [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2020 12:51
To: [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk> [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Cc: [NR]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Copyin [NR] n CMOs office

[NR]

From: [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 March 2020 12:26
To: [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Hi both

Just checking in on the capacity in critical care guidance. [redacted] NR [redacted], are you the best person to speak to about this today?

From: [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 March 2020 20:29
To: Blain, Max <Max.Blain@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>; [redacted] NR [redacted] <[redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk>
Cc: Thomas, Kate <kate.thomas@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

I've just heard from CMOs office that this isn't going to ministers tomorrow and has been paused for now.

I'll make sure the duty team have the current version of the tool and guidance in case this comes up again tomorrow, but seeing as it's likely to change following further discussions I'll leave the Q&A for now.

[redacted] NR [redacted] said:

- SoS and Simon Stevens have spoken and have cancelled the Ministers implementation group tomorrow (was due to be 11am and specifically to discuss the clinical prioritisation tool)
- This is because both are unhappy with issuing this tool as it stands (noting how potentially controversial it is/difficult landing)
- Therefore things are on hold for now and DCMO Jenny Harries has updated the clinicians who wrote the tool and the UK CMOs
- The tool might get redrafted into something SoS happy with but this will all be discussed over next few days
- Everyone clear that this needs to be right and not rushed out, CMO view that not urgent need for it right now.

From: Blain, Max <Max.Blain@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 7:36 pm
To: [redacted] NR [redacted]
Cc: Thomas, Kate
Subject: RE: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Adding: [redacted] NR [redacted]

I've made a few changes below [redacted] NR [redacted] – hopefully we'll get more of a steer from Helen Stokes Lampard and [redacted] NR [redacted] in CMO's so more detail on stakeholders can be added in. If there's anything you can put in without that info please can you add.

[redacted] NR [redacted] – can you get in touch with [redacted] NR [redacted] in the morning and check how the guidance is going to ministers so our comms proposals can go in parallel.

The duty team also needs to work up a Q&A on this for close tomorrow in case it does need to go out Monday.

Thanks,

Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Issue:

The four UK CMOs commissioned experts to develop guidance for clinicians on clinical prioritisation for Covid19. It has been led by:

- Prof. Sir Jonathan Montgomery (UCL Prof. of Healthcare Law),
- Prof. Helen Stokes-Lampard (former RCGP President)
- Dr Ganesh Suntharalingam (President of the Intensive Care Society)

The guidance has been developed with engagement and input from a number of stakeholders including the BMA, GMC, National Voices, Royal Colleges, and a Moral and Ethical Advisory Group.

It is intended to provide clinicians with a decision-making protocol for use during the COVID-19 outbreak when ICU beds are in unprecedented demand.

Although clinicians ordinarily make ethical judgements as part of their work, this tool would bypasses usual processes and is intended for use when judgements must be made quickly and possibly by more junior clinicians.

The protocol is based on a scorecard system which takes into account age, co-morbidities and frailty to determine the most appropriate clinical pathway for an individual in the event that there are not ICU beds.

It is intended to provide a fair, consistent, ethical and compassionate framework for clinicians to make decisions about critical care pathways.

Strategy:

This is a sensitive document – although it is intended for clinical use it is almost certain it will end up in the public domain.

We do not recommend any proactive announcements to promote the guidance.

However, in order to ensure sensible, accurate and responsible coverage from media we recommend working with them closely to guide coverage.

Risks and mitigations

- We expect this document to be leaked to journalists as soon as it is circulated to the medical community. We are also aware that following engagement with the lead authors, some patient groups have expressed significant concerns about the nature of this work and there is a possibility they could go to media. Authors continue to engage with them to allay any concerns and address misperceptions but this remains a risk.
- Lead authors have advised that most clinicians in acute settings will be receptive to this guidance as it provides a standardised approach on which to base difficult decisions in unprecedented times. However, it is likely that it could be sensationalised by media and cause unnecessary panic and concern among the general public.
- Journalists could frame the protocol as the NHS withholding care from older or sicker patients because it cannot cope with demand. This is especially likely given media scrutiny on the situation in Italy where medics were reported as having to ration care.
- The format of the tool (a scorecard) is also likely to draw criticism that the decision-making process will be overly simplistic and uncompassionate.
- We will work closely to ensure that journalists understand the context in which this tool would be used, in what setting, how this fit in with our wider plan, and that it may not be needed.

Best wishes,

NR



Department
of Health &
Social Care

NR

Head of External Affairs | Strategy & External Affairs
Department of Health and Social Care, 39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU
E: PD @dhsc.gov.uk I&S /: Personal Data

To reach the External Affairs Team: DHSCEXternalAffairs@dhsc.gov.uk

From: NR @dhsc.gov.uk
Sent: 27 March 2020 19:45
To: Blain, Max <Max.Blain@dhsc.gov.uk> NR @dhsc.gov.uk
Cc: NR @dhsc.gov.uk; Thomas, Kate <kate.thomas@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Hi both

I just spoke to PD, who had just come out of a meeting with the 4 CMOs and the guidance team. They want to send the guidance and the graphics to Ministers for clearance on Sunday afternoon ideally. So we agreed it would be important to have the comms handling sent up at the same time, as Ministers/CMO are likely to have strong views on how this is communicated.

So this will need progressing over the weekend – copying NR /Kate in here for ease so they can pick up on stakeholders and reattaching the guidance/graphics.

NR is happy to chat through and is going to email NR separately about it.

Thanks,

NR

From: Blain, Max <Max.Blain@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 March 2020 18:38
To: NR @dhsc.gov.uk NR @dhsc.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Thanks for this PD I think the approach looks right to me, both in terms of the briefing and top lines. What we need is detail on how we and others will engage the key stakeholders to land this so we need to make sure NR and NHSE's stakeholders are linked in with BMA etc.

Can you share with them and get views etc.

The graphic is pretty grim, we should find another term other than 'points' for referring to how individuals are rated.

In terms of timing, can you go to NR and check what the latest is. I don't think we need it cleared over the weekend.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Max Blain
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From: **NR** <NR@dhsc.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 March 2020 18:10
To: **NR** <NR@dhsc.gov.uk>; Blain, Max <Max.Blain@dhsc.gov.uk>
Subject: Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Hi both,

Below is the comms handling **NR** handed over to me earlier. I haven't had a chance to progress yet – I'm not entirely sure how urgent this is but thought it would be worth you taking a look at the below. Can you let me know if you think we need to progress this over the weekend?

The last I saw was that there was a call with the 4 CMOs and the guidance team this afternoon, so hopefully we will get a readout from that which should shed some more light.

Thanks,

PD

Guidance on capacity challenges in critical care

Issue:

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Strategy: