

Mr Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive
Public Health England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London, SE1 8UG

Sent by email

23 April 2020

Dear Duncan,

Re: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and aerosol generation (AGP)

We are writing to you to request that CPR (including chest compressions) is classified as an Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP), on a precautionary basis. This requires a change to your current guidance, last revised on 17 April.

We understand that Public Health England (PHE) aim to take an evidence-based approach to the list of procedures that are classified as AGPs and that on the balance of current evidence have not designated CPR, chest compressions in particular, as such.

However, members of our organisations remain concerned that they are being asked to resuscitate patients without adequate protection due to a lack of national consensus on this issue. The guidance from Resuscitation Council UK provides a clear process for both protecting patients and healthcare workers – treating CPR as a potential AGP. This involves one staff member shocking the patient up to three times with a defibrillator, whilst wearing fluid resistant surgical mask, apron, gloves and eye protection, giving others – if they are not already wearing it – time to put on full protective PPE; namely FFP3 mask, gown, gloves and eye protection.

As coronavirus is a novel infection, we acknowledge that evidence is still emerging and not of the standard that we would normally base clinical decision upon. Given the absence of definitive evidence, we therefore urge you to take a precautionary approach to this area and either classify CPR (including chest compressions) as an AGP **or** note the lack of evidence but, despite this, support the expert guidance published by Resuscitation Council UK as professional consensus. Either course of action will both protect and reassure our members and all healthcare workers.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

Dr Chaand Nagpaul CBE
BMA council chair

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Professor Jonathan Wyllie
RCUK President

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Dame Donna Kinnair
RCN Chief Executive & General Secretary

Dr Claudia Paoloni
HCSA President