

Covid Home Visiting Arrangements

From Monday 11th May Lincolnshire Community Health Services will be picking up requests for in-hours (08:00 to 18:30) Home Visits for patients registered with a Lincolnshire CCG practice who have suspected or confirmed Covid.

The service will be available for the following patients:

- People with respiratory symptoms and/ or temperature, who are likely to be infectious as per current guidance. Patients can be considered non-infectious if they are at least 7 days from onset of symptoms, afebrile for 48 hours and without respiratory symptoms (other than a simple persistent cough for 48 hours).
- People who are asymptomatic but are self-isolating as a result of a household member being symptomatic (only seen in home visiting service if not able to travel to a hot site).
- That are housebound (using LCHS guidelines)
- Regardless of whether in a care home or their own home
- Patients with confirmed Covid diagnosis (clinically diagnosed or tested positive) who require general care that is clinically essential, should have these care needs addressed as part of this service.
- Mobile patients who cannot get to Red Hubs where all alternative options have been exhausted i.e. remote consultation and / or availability of household transport.

Covid patients should only be referred to LCHS for a home visit if they cannot be managed remotely.

Referrals should be made by calling 0300 123 4868 and selecting Option 2.

SystemOne practices must open a SystemOne share for the patient to ensure the clinician can see the record. The clinician who sees the patient at home will enter data on SystemOne which is shared back with the GP Practice.

EMIS practices – an alert will be sent to the Practice regarding the visit in the same way Practices are notified of a normal CAS/111 consultation.

On receipt of the referral LCHS will assess the patient and arrange for a clinician to visit the patient if required.

Demand for home visits will be reviewed regularly and the CCG, LCHS and PCNs will work together to agree plans to manage potential increases in demand.

Definition of housebound as followed by LCHS

- Home visits should be reserved for patients who are genuinely housebound and who do not leave the house for any reason. This includes those in residential and nursing homes
- Visits should only be carried out if the patient's clinical condition prevents them from travelling to a General Practice or Red site facility.
- Age is not a criterion for a home visit, the criteria applies to both older and younger people
- Home visits should not be undertaken for social / transport reasons
- Home visits should not be arranged to meet patient demand (i.e. "I want a visit") rather than urgent medical need (this patient needs a visit because their acute medical condition is likely to deteriorate and they are housebound)

- The clinician may refuse to visit the patient and offer an urgent appointment at a PCC if he/she feels that is more appropriate due the nature of the problem and the potential need for diagnostics that can't be provided in the home setting.