



Geriatric Rehabilitation MEMO

To: WRHA Operations Leaders

From: Dr. Cornelia (Kristel) van Ineveld, Interim Medical Director, WRHA Geriatrics Program

Copy: Hana Forbes, Executive Director, Long Term Care, Rehabilitation, Healthy Aging & Seniors Care
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Date: May 12, 2020

Subject: COVID-19: Scenarios and Transfer to Geriatric Rehabilitation

The geriatric rehabilitation units continue to admit patients following established [Standard Operating Procedures](#). Admissions also continue to occur directly from the community. Within the WRHA, geriatric rehabilitation beds are located in sub-acute facilities (SOGH & VGH) and a hybrid facility (DLC).

COVID-19 is known to present atypically in the frail elderly and therefore appropriate screening must occur specifically for individuals presenting from congregate living settings and individuals with cognitive impairment who have difficulty reporting symptoms.

Transfer of Individuals from another hospital or unit:

Transfer of patients to geriatric rehabilitation units will continue to follow existing processes and admission criteria. For patients that are COVID-suspect, test results must be available and negative prior to transfer. As well, as per normal process, isolation precautions must be resolved prior to a transition to rehab.

Consulting physicians will continue to complete a point of care risk assessment to determine risk of COVID exposure, symptoms presented as well as atypical presentation. In such cases, COVID testing may be requested prior to a transfer to geriatric rehabilitation. If there is disagreement between the consulting physician and the attending physician regarding testing and there is a risk the patient is still symptomatic this may require consultation with Infections Diseases or Infection Prevention and Control.

Admission of patients directly from the community:

Community includes individuals currently known to Day Hospitals, Outreach teams and PRIME.

In addition to usual referral process, all referrals for direct admission will be reviewed with the Medical Director, Geriatrics prior to being placed on the wait list.

Individuals with respiratory symptoms, influenza like illness, diarrheal illness or unexplained delirium will require medical clearance prior to an admission to geriatric rehabilitation.

Should you have any questions on the above please feel free to contact me.

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