COVID-19 rapid guideline: critical care in adults
(Last update: 25 March 2020)

Assess frailty

Patient aged over 65, without stable long-term disabilities (for example, cerebral palsy), learning disabilities or autism: use Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) score as part of a holistic assessment.

Patient aged under 65, or any age with stable long-term disabilities (for example, cerebral palsy), learning disabilities or autism: do an individualised assessment of frailty. Do not use CFS score.

Consider comorbidities and underlying health conditions in all cases

More frail based on assessment:
- for example, CFS score of 5 or more

Critical care considered appropriate

Initial management outside of critical care

Condition improves

Ward-level care safe currently: continue to review

Condition deteriorates

Refer to critical care

Less frail based on assessment:
- for example, CFS score under 5, AND would like critical care treatment

Initial management

Ward-level care safe currently: continue to review

Condition deteriorates

End-of-life care

Refer to critical care

This is a summary of the advice in the NICE COVID-19 rapid guideline: critical care.

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