COVID-19 rapid guideline: critical care in adults

(Last update: 27 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.
- Any patient aged under 65, or patient of 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

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

**Initial management**

- Adult admitted to hospital

- 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.

- Any patient aged under 65, or patient of 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

**Critical care considered appropriate**

- Initial management outside of critical care

- Condition improves

- Ward-level care safe currently: continue to review

- Refer to critical care

- Condition deteriorates

- Ward-level care safe currently: continue to review

**Critical care not considered appropriate**

- Initial management outside of critical care

- Condition improves

- Ward-level care safe currently: continue to review

- End-of-life care

- Condition deteriorates

- Ward-level care safe currently: continue to review

**Condition deteriorates**

Refer to critical care

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

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