



1st July 2020

Dear colleague

RECAP (Remote COVID Assessment in Primary Care): a learning system approach to develop an early warning score for use by primary care practitioners

We are contacting you as we are conducting a study to validate an early warning score (RECAP) for use in GP-patient consultations (mainly by phone or video) in the context of COVID-19. We will not be collecting any more data than would reasonably be collected by any clinician making any COVID-19 assessment in primary care, but we are providing templates to code the data in the electronic health record. The RECAP score consists of items like temperature, pulse, shortness of breath and oxygen saturation (if available). COVID-19 data from GPs electronic health record (EHR) will be linked with outcome data from acute trusts on admission, COVID-19 status, ICU admission and death. This is large national project. Some primary care organisations have decided to incorporate the templates into their local pathway for Covid-19 management. Other practices are being asked to join as part of the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre network.

If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to use the RECAP template for managing patients with probable Covid-19 infection during the consultation. We will end up with a score which, along with clinical judgement, will help GPs distinguish patients who should be sent to the hospital from those who can be safely managed in primary care. We are also interested in GP perceptions and a small number of GPs will be invited to take part in an interview. We will ask, for example, if and how you found it useful, what worked, what did not work, and how the RECAP score could be designed to serve the consultation and your needs better.

You have been identified by the study team at University of Oxford and/or through linked GP networks and organisations, as someone who can speak of the impact of the pandemic on the consultation when assessing patients with probable COVID-19.

Please find attached the Participant Information Sheet for further information and if you have any further questions, please contact Professor Trisha Greenhalgh at trish.greenhalgh@phc.ox.ac.uk or Professor Simon de Lusignan at simon.delusignan@phc.ox.ac.uk. (The Chief Investigator of the national study is brendan.delaney@imperial.ac.uk.)

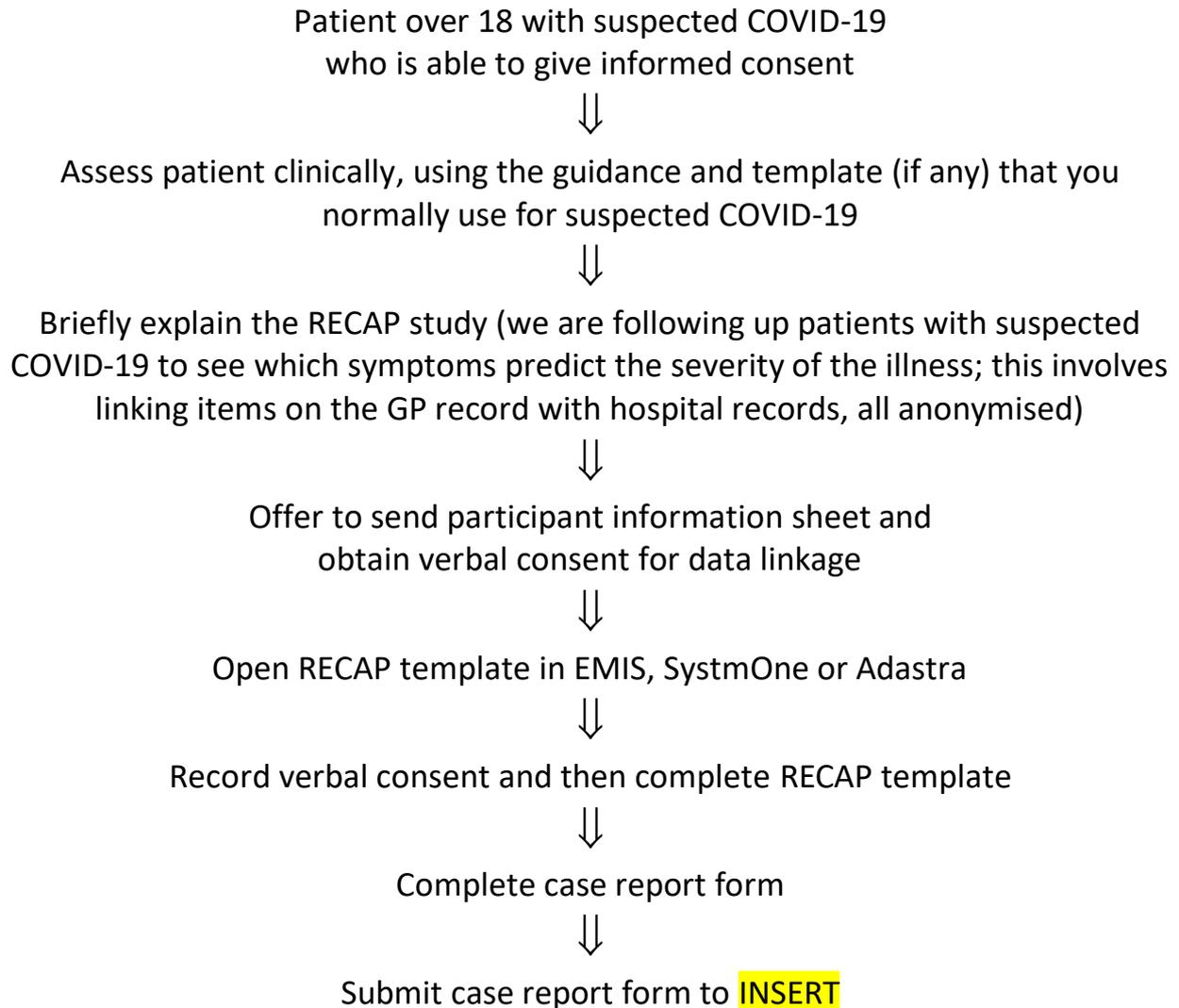
If you do not wish to take part in the study, please let us know.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Professor Trish Greenhalgh FRCGP. Professor Simon de Lusignan FRCGP

RECAP STUDY: SUMMARY FLOWCHART



For further details and support with this study please contact Laiba Husain, research assistant to Prof Greenhalgh and Prof de Lusignan, laiba.husain@phc.ox.ac.uk

SUMMARY VERSION OF RECAP-v0 SCORE

Additional detail for each item is given on the electronic template

RED ALERT CRITERIA: If patients have any of the following, consider 999

Adapted from national primary care covid-19 recommendations

Shock or peripheral shutdown

- Reduced level of consciousness
- Extremities – cold and clammy to touch
- Pallor – skin is mottled, ashen, blue or very pale
- Reduced urine output – little or no urine in last 24 hours

Severe breathlessness

- Rapid, significant deterioration in breathing in last hour
- New breathlessness at rest
- Newly unable to complete sentences
- Sudden onset of breathlessness

Other red flags which may be non-covid-19 related e.g.

- Severe central chest pain
- Collapse

RECAP-V0 SCORE FOR PATIENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE RED ALERT SYMPTOMS OR SIGNS

		Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3 => refer urgently	Score
1	Heart rate (per minute) <i>(if heart rate not available, score 1)</i>	51-90	41-50 or 91-110 or missing data	111-130	≤ 40 OR > 130, if unexplained	
2a	Shortness of breath	Not breathless at all	Breathless on moderate exertion e.g. walking room to room	Breathless on mild exertion e.g. getting out of a chair	Severe breathing difficulty; can't complete sentences at rest	Highest of 2a or 2b
2b	<u>or</u> Respiratory rate (per minute)	12-20	21-24	9-11 or 25-29	8 or less, or 30 or more	
3	Trajectory of breathlessness	Same or better than yesterday	Breathless, worse than yesterday	-	Significant deterioration in last hour	
4a	Oxygen saturation at rest	96% or above	95% (don't do 40-step test unsupervised)	94% (don't do 40-step test unsupervised)	93% or below (don't do 40-step test)	Highest of 4a, 4b & 4c
4b	<u>or</u> Saturation after 40 steps	Fall of 0-1%	-	Fall of 2%	Fall of 3% or more	
4c	<u>or</u> Profound tiredness or fatigue	None or mild	Noticeably more tired doing usual activities	Struggling to get out of bed	Unable to speak because of tiredness	
5a	Temperature	≤ 38 °C	38.1-39 °C	> 39 °C or < 35 °C	-	Highest of 5a or 5b
5b	<u>or</u> Feeling feverish with shivers	None	Feverish or chills	Uncontrollable shivering	-	
6	Time from first symptom (days)	7 or fewer	8 or more	-		
7	Muscle aches	None or mild	Moderate	Severe		
8	Cognitive decline	No	Less mentally alert than usual	New and worsening confusion	Reduced level of consciousness	
9	On COVID-19 shielded list (or has been inadvertently left off it)?	No	Yes	-	-	
10	Other risk factors for poor outcome? e.g. age, ethnicity	0-2	3 or more	-	-	
TOTAL						

RECAP score	Meaning	Recommended action
7 or more total <u>or</u> 3 on any item <u>or</u> extremely high level of clinical concern	HIGH RISK	Consider urgent referral
4-6 or more total <u>or</u> high level of clinical concern	MODERATE RISK	See in hot hub or virtual ward, or arrange home visit
0-3 total	LOW RISK	Advice and monitor at home