

## Your Weekly Update from Simon de Lusignan, Director of RCGP RSC

### 'Coding Is Caring' Special Edition!



*"We talk a lot about how "Coding is caring", but integrating it into your sampling process can be daunting.*

*" So this week we're focusing on coding, why it's important and how the ILI signal has significance!"*

#### Thoughts on our new Coding Schema

Our sampling practices have been doing an incredible job, with their efforts reflected in the increase of virology swabbing and serology sampling volumes throughout October.

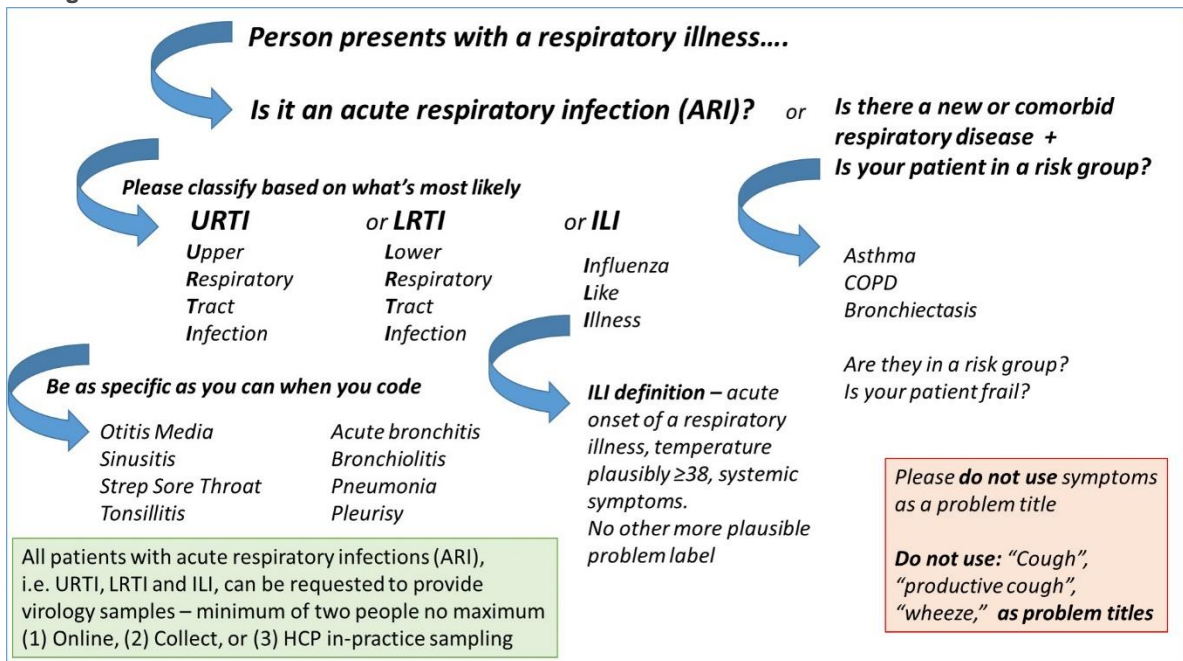
But it's essential to match this success with a consistent level of quality coding. Coding is caring - it allows for UKHSA to better understand what viruses are circulating and where.

For example, if we see an unexpected increase in 'tonsillitis' or 'bronchiolitis' it could signal that something new or unusual is circulating. Using symptoms like 'cough' as the 'problem title' is too broad a description for us to narrow down what might be happening.

Also, some codes are being used more than others. 'ILI' or 'Influenza-like-illness' is one we see less of, so we would like to stress the significance of coding ILI. Please consider using it where appropriate!

To try and help build that integration into the sampling process, we've included a coding schema below to illustrate when to code and the type of coding we need. Our Director, Simon, is very keen for some feedback - **so have a look and tell us what you think!**

## Coding Schema



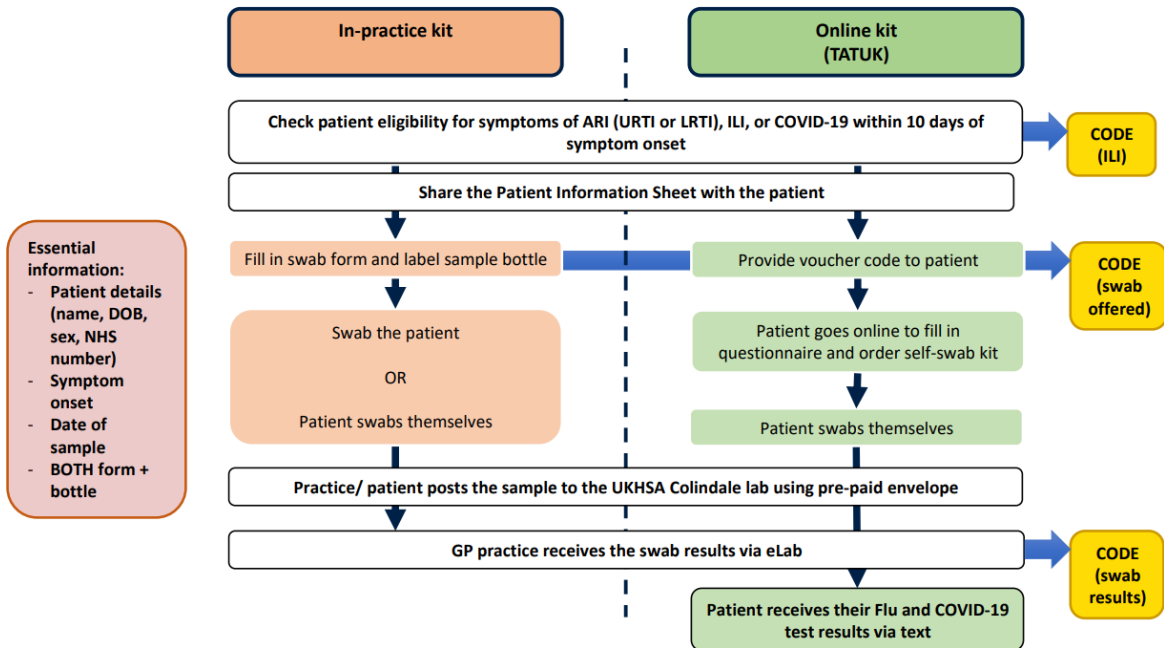
## When to code - Virology Swabbing Pathways

Having a coding schema can help with understanding what to code. But *when* should codes be added to best integrate them into the swabbing process? And how do they differ when providing in-practice swabs or when a patient is directed to Take A Test UK (TATUK)?

To try and address this, we've created a flowchart that details the different virology swabbing pathways and offers guidance on at which stage to code.

We hope you find both of these graphics useful and we're here help if you have any questions - let us know your thoughts at [practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk)

## Swabbing Pathway Flowchart



## ClinT Of The Week

Remember, coding is caring! Please code a disease as a problem.



**Viral gastroenteritis (disorder)**  
**SCTID: 111843007**

111843007 | Viral gastroenteritis (disorder) |  
 Viral gastroenteritis  
 Viral diarrhea  
 Viral vomiting  
 Viral diarrhoea  
 Viral gastroenteritis (disorder)