

North-east COVID-19 observatory: issue 3.

KYDD, A., TEODOROWSKI, P., PAPADATOU, Z., VELO HIGUERAS, M.,
MACLEAN, C. and OZA, R.

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North-East COVID-19

Observatory

Issue 3—15 June 2020



Welcome

Welcome to our third themed issue regarding COVID-19. The focus is on practice matters during the COVID-19 pandemic. This issue signposts you to useful resources and best practice statements and guidelines concerning COVID-19. We know that there is a wealth of information available and we feel that in having each issue themed, you can see at a glance what is available and keep copies of the Observatory issues for reference. The bulletin is available two-weekly and will have a dedicated theme and contain news, professional matters, and relevant professional and light reading. Each issue will have a guest contributor with a specialist interest in the chosen theme. We have a dedicated email address (a.kydd@rgu.ac.uk) for people who would like to request themes or to send in resources that others might find interesting. We also welcome feedback.

Fortnightly Theme: Practice

Gareth O'Brien, Health Services Researcher from NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland, shares his thoughts on changes in practice at time of COVID-19.



The current spotlight on our health and care services has never been as pronounced in my lifetime. Even in the midst of a global pandemic the importance of keeping up to date in practice should not be underestimated. Providing quality care is at the heart of nursing practice and practice education is a key vehicle to ensure that this quality remains high.

In this time of crisis and uncertainty, the healthcare system has been forced to flex and the way that care is delivered may have adapted outside the realms of usual practice. Some staff and students may have been placed into new, uncomfortable and unfamiliar settings and practice education has a critical role to play enabling this transition. Through observing and engaging in good practice, supervision and reflective practice, we can work towards meeting staff need and maintaining high quality care throughout our healthcare system in a way that supports our staff and keeps both our patients and staff safe. Continuing to investigate practice, to study care and to discuss and share learning with our colleagues to build understanding – some of the fundamentals of practice education – is as important today, during this difficult time, as ever before.

Policies and Reports

[The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence \(NICE\)](#)

NICE have published a rapid guideline on managing the symptoms of COVID-19 and includes end of life care. It also has recommendations about managing medicines for these patients and protecting staff from infection. The website has tools and resources available, including implementation support, a summary version of remote consultation and guidance into practice. Although there will be an Observatory issue addressing primary care, these guidelines have been designed for people in hospital, people in the community and people in care homes.

[Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network \(SIGN\)](#)

SIGN is a part of NHS Healthcare Improvement Scotland and has currently paused all guideline development during the COVID-19 crisis. NHS staff and healthcare professionals are referred to a dedicated section of the NHS Inform website (see below) for up to date guidelines concerning COVID-19. This is a rich resource from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government.

[The Digital Health Institute \(DHI\)](#)

The Digital Health Institute have provided a useful resource for a wide variety of local guidelines and pathways for clinical decision making.

[RCN guidelines on skin health](#)

The RCN have produced some useful guidelines on skin health. Frequent hand washing can lead to and exacerbate dry skin issues including contact dermatitis – a painful, debilitating condition which may require nursing staff to be moved out of clinical areas due to the risk of infection.

[Dealing with bereavement in the workplace](#)

NHS Education for Scotland have published information on Support Around Death (SAD). These dealing with death in the workplace and include employees who have been bereaved, experiencing the death of a colleague and talking and being with people who are bereaved. The guidelines also signpost to other useful organisations.

[Dementia care during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The Care Inspectorate highlight the coronavirus (COVID-19) poses unprecedented challenges for care services and, in particular, on vulnerable groups such as people living with dementia and their families and carers. The situation can sometimes change daily, and it will be important for all organisations to share resources, guidance and best-practice examples as they become available.

[Community setting](#)

We recommend these resources for staff working across all health and social care settings in the community.

It provides guidelines on how to support those caring for people within the community who have or may have, COVID-19.

[Health Protection Scotland](#)

Health Protection Scotland offer a site containing information on infection control, guidance for primary, secondary and domiciliary care. It also provides a rapid review of the literature on assessing infection prevention and control measures concerning COVID-19 in healthcare settings.

[Scottish Drugs Forum](#)

The Scottish Drugs Forum has produced a guide on support and planning services for people who are affected by problem drug use. The aim is to ensure that essential treatment and harm reduction services for this vulnerable group of people can adapt to ensure high standard service delivery in the challenging circumstances of the pandemic.

Midwifery

The [UK Obstetric Surveillance System](#) (UKOSS) has a registry of all COVID-19 cases in pregnant women admitted to hospital. Their preliminary results were published on the 11th may, with a sample of 427 women. The final report was published in BMJ. This is one of the biggest studies published until present day on maternity outcomes in the context of COVID19. We strongly suggest to read the full report, but some of the most important results are as follows:

- Most admissions were in women in the late second or third trimester, with a median of 34 weeks.
- Only 1 in 10 women admitted needed critical care, which is a similar pattern than in general population. Only 1 in 20 of the babies had a positive test for COVID19 with no evidence of severe illness.
- The mortality rate of women needing admission for COVID19 was 1.2% with an overall maternal mortality rate of 1 in 18.000 births.
- Women more at risk of admission were: BAME , older maternal age, high BMI and pre-existing comorbidities. The high association between BAME women and hospitalisation for COVID19 (aOR 4.49) is of concern but it seems to mirror results in general population.

COVID-19 Library

Weekly Recommended Professional Reading

We have selected the review and collection that you might find interesting and which are related to the theme.

Below is a review of pertinent paediatric literature regarding COVID-19 disease by a team called Don't Forget the Bubbles. They have joined forces with the UK Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to provide systematic search, and selected reviews of all the COVID-19 literature relevant to children and young people.

- [Paediatrics and COVID-19 literature](#)

The British Geriatrics Society provide information on managing care of older people, it includes tools and templates for a variety of topics including managing the pandemic in care homes, delirium, and medication management.

- [BGS resources](#)

Light Reading

Trisha Greenhaigh and colleagues write about the use of face masks for the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors conducted a rapid review of the literature and argue there should be a greater focus on external validity in the evaluation of the use of face masks. They conclude that the precautionary principle states we should sometimes act without definitive evidence, just in case. They add that because COVID-19 is such a serious threat, wearing masks in public should be advised:

- [Face masks for the public during the COVID-19 crisis](#)

The Editorial Team

We are a small team from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Robert Gordon University (RGU). Angela Kydd, Clinical Professor in Nursing RGU / NHSG (editor); Piotr Teodorowski, Research Assistant (deputy editor); Dr Zoi Papadatrou, lecturer adult nursing; Maria Velo Higuera, lecturer midwifery; Colin MacLean, librarian; Rahul Oza, Online Learning Developer.

For further information, please contact:

Prof Angela Kydd

a.kydd@rgu.ac.uk

RGU School of Nursing & Midwifery

Ishbel Gordon Building

Robert Gordon University, Garthdee RD,

Aberdeen AB10 7QE