Date: 7th December 2021

Title: COVID Oximetry at Home – New Functionality

Dear GM Colleagues,

As Clinical & Operational Leads for your locality's CO@H/Virtual Ward service, please find below more information on additional functionality being added to the CO@H/Virtual Ward platform provided by Graphnet. These changes provide the functionality to enable more patients to be discharged from hospital or managed at home – if agreed by your locality.

As you are aware, the existing functionality allows patients to record and upload their Pulse Oximetry readings via the myGM Care app or via a phone call providing direct interaction with your CO@H team. Two new areas of functionality have been added to enhance the current service provision of CO@H. These are:

1. **Recording and Monitoring of capillary blood glucose readings for patients on Dexamethasone**

Some patients who are prescribed a course of Dexamethasone as part of their COVID treatment plan can experience corticosteroid induced hyperglycaemia. Clinical guidance indicates that blood glucose levels should be monitored for the first 48-72 hours from commencement of this treatment for these patients.

New functionality has now been added to the myGM Care app and CO@H dashboard interfaces to allow glucometer readings to be recorded. The app interface will ask questions relating to how the patient is currently feeling, glucometer readings to be entered and patient guidance messages relating to the current recorded blood glucose level.

A patient information leaflet has been created for those being treated with Dexamethasone, which can be adapted/amended locally with contact details and links to other patient information .

2. **Adjustment of oxygen saturation alert levels for patients who have pre-existing chronic hypoxia**

Some patients who test positive for COVID already have pre-existing conditions that can result in chronically low blood oxygen levels (hypoxia). These patients may be appropriate for the CO@H service but would frequently trigger high-alert responses when entering low pulse oximetry readings into the current configuration of the CO@H service platform.

New functionality has now been added to allow those managing the CO@H service to designate tailored pulse oximetry reading parameters to provide appropriate alert

thresholds for these patients. The CO@H platform will mandate that a senior appropriate clinician has confirmed that it is clinically appropriate for this particular patient.

A specific patient information leaflet has been created relating to Hypoxia and for those with Hypoxia and being treated with Dexamethasone. These can be adapted/amended locally with contact details and links to other patient information.

Clinical Safety Assessment:

A Clinical Safety assessment was carried out on the new functionality on 29th November 2021 by the CSO for the GM Care Record.

The new functionality is currently scheduled to go-live on 8th December 2021.

NB. Although this functionality is being made available within the platform – it is optional. Local governance processes / agreed pathways will need to be in place to manage these 2 new patient groups remotely.

Next steps:

1. **Staff materials** - The existing CO@H Virtual Ward staff training pack presentation will be adapted to include guidance in relation to this new functionality. A short video presentation is about to be created giving an overview of this new functionality.
2. **Patient information leaflets** – new leaflets have been created to reflect these changes and can be adapted for local use.
3. Health Innovation Manchester's website – will contain all the updated staff and patient information ready for "go-live".
4. **Testing** is in the planning stages and we will confirm the date and time of testing with localities as you will see "test patients" on the GM Care Record.
5. **Patient involvement** – we are about to obtain user feedback on the final changes.

All training and resources will be found at:
https://healthinnovationmanchester.com/covid-oximetryhome-and-virtual-wards-resources/

Please share this information with other locality colleagues and staff operating your CO@H/Virtual Ward service as required.

For any questions, please email: pmosupport@healthinnovationmanchester.com