



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP009) for: Patients using Aerosol Generated Procedures	
Staff groups SOP applies to:	All Care Services staff in the Therapy and Wellbeing Service
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1 Aim

The aim of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to establish guidelines and actions required by all care staff undertaking any contact with patients using Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) in the building during the COVID-19 pandemic. This should be used in conjunction with all other SOPs for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Current updates are available at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-aerosol-generating-procedures>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/990923/20210602_Infection_Prevention_and_Control_Guidance_for_maintaining_services_with_H_and_C_settings__1_.pdf

This offers the current NHS and Government advice and should be reviewed regularly inline with this SOP.

2 Context

There are three main service areas that make up the total service offer from the Hospice. These are Therapy and Wellbeing Services, Hospice in Your Home Services and Emotional Support services. Our services are open to adults over the age of 18. They must be registered with a GP in Nottinghamshire and have a life-limiting illness with a prognosis of one year or less.

3 Location and hours:

- Any staff or volunteers working in the Therapy and Wellbeing Services within the Hospice building.
- These services operate 5 days per week for 52 weeks per year.
- May be offered a community visit depending on individual patient need.

4 Principles and Purpose

This guidance is for clinicians, managers, staff and volunteers outlining practical information about delivering and supporting care for patients coming into the building using AGP. The safety of the staff, volunteers, patient¹, carer and the family will be core to the service we offer.

What is an AGP?

An aerosol generating procedure (AGP) is a medical procedure that can result in the release of airborne particles (aerosols) from the respiratory tract when treating someone who is suspected or known to be suffering from an infectious agent transmitted wholly or partly by the airborne or droplet route.

This is the list of medical procedures for COVID-19 that have been reported to be aerosol generating and are associated with an increased risk of respiratory transmission that maybe seen on the GRACE unit:

- manual ventilation eg lung volume recruitment (LVR bag)
- Non-invasive ventilation (NIV)
- Bi level Positive Airway Pressure Ventilation (BiPAP)
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure Ventilation (CPAP)
- high flow nasal oxygen (HFNO)
- respiratory tract suctioning

5 Risk rating of Individuals Visiting the Hospice

All individuals entering the Hospice will enter via a separate entrance and exit and if possible whilst being transported to and around the site will wear a fluid repellent surgical face mask. Any AGP should be undertaken within a well ventilated room where the window can be opened and not in the vicinity of other individuals.

The minimum PPE required for staff working in the hospice is as follows:

- Type IIr fluid repellent surgical face mask at all times when in the hospice premises.
- Gloves single use nitrile or latex powder free gloves if in contact with blood or body fluids
- Single use apron if in contact with blood or body fluids
- Face visor eye protection if there is a risk of splashing or spraying of blood or body fluids into the eyes or mouth.

¹ For the purpose of the SOP the generic usage of patient will also cover family and carers.

. Patients will be considered to be medium risk category according to PHE guidance in the majority of cases because very few will be part of a regular testing programme. Medium risk is classed as follows:

a) triaged/clinically assessed individuals are asymptomatic and are waiting a SARS CoV-2 PCR test result

OR

b) triaged/clinically assessed individuals are asymptomatic with COVID-19 contact/exposure identified

OR

c) testing is not required or feasible on asymptomatic individuals and therefore infectious status is unknown

OR

d) asymptomatic individuals decline testing

If patient is regularly screened and tested in community using PCR or LFT, they maybe reviewed by a clinician, discussed and documented in Case Conference that the patient will be considered to be in the **low risk category**. See PHE guidance for details of low risk category

Procedure for individuals deemed to be low risk who Require an AGP

In line with the PHE Infection Prevention and Control guidance individuals will be considered low risk if they are regularly testing for COVID using either PCR or lateral flow tests and on triage are asymptomatic or if they have recently recovered from COVID within the last 14 days and have been 48 hours without symptoms or fever.

6 Procedure for attending with AGP planned or unplanned use (eg cough assist)

Pre visit screening for COVID symptoms to be posted/ emailed to patient prior to appointment (see appendix), screening questions to be asked on arrival at the unit. PPE to be worn prior to appointment according to triaging and risk assessment by clinician. Where possible patients who require AGPs should have their visits arranged so they are the last patient in the allocated therapy room. If this is not possible then the room needs to be left until it has had 6 air changes which in a standard room will be 2 hours. Opening the window will increase the air change rate.

- Prior to AGP being undertaken the staff member undertaking the procedure and any other staff present in the room must risk assess the patient and apply the following PPE:
- FFP 3 mask which they have previously been fit tested for and passed fit testing requirements. If the patient is deemed to be low risk because they are regular testing and have tested negative then a fluid repellent type IIr mask could be worn instead of an FFP3. The mask needs to be fit checked by the individual each time it is applied to ensure they have a good seal over the chin and nose and this can be done by the staff member checking the mask in the mirror to ensure there are no folded edges.
- A face visor or eye protection
- Single use gloves
- Long sleeved disposable gown or disposable single use apron if they are deemed low risk

- Keep number of personnel in the room to a minimum. All staff members present should wear full PPE. Decontaminate all the surfaces and equipment within the room using clinell sanitising wipes as soon as possible after the rest period and according to Hospice IPC guidance.
- Once the AGP has been undertaken then the staff members can remove their gloves, decontaminate their hands and leave the room prior to removing the rest of their PPE undertaking hand hygiene between each stage and then applying a fresh fluid repellent type IIr mask.

7 Procedure for attending without active AGP

- Pre visit screening to be completed as above.
- If a patient routinely uses a device classed as an AGP, usual standard PPE as described below should be worn with no additional requirements.
- During consultation all staff members present should wear full standard PPE, (Fluid repellent type IIR facemask, if contact with blood and body fluids is anticipated single use gloves and apron should be worn and disposed of following each procedure).
- Decontaminate all the surfaces and equipment within the room using Clinell sanitising wipes as soon as possible after the visit and according to Hospice IPC guidance. .

References:

PHE: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/secondary-care/infection-control/ppe/>

AGP: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance-aerosol-generating-procedures>

Hospice IPC Guidance: Hopsice website

Appendix:

Standard pre-visit screening information sent out to patients as below:



COVID Patient Information Leaflet

Advice for Patients attending GRACE Unit or Therapy & Wellbeing services during Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

This can be done safely without putting our patients, the public or our staff at risk.

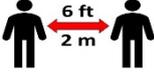
What does this mean for my appointment?

- You will need to attend your appointment **alone** where possible.
- You may bring one other person to support you if you have a disability or communication requirement.

	Do you have new symptoms of a cough?
	Do you have a high fever or a temperature?
	Do you have a change or loss of taste or smell?
	Do you have new symptoms of shortness of breath?
	Have you been in contact with anyone who has either a cough or fever in the 14 days prior to your appointment?
	Have you been in contact with anyone confirmed to be Coronavirus positive?

If you have answered 'YES' to any of the above, please **DO NOT** attend the Hospice. Instead, telephone 0115 9621222 as soon as possible to discuss rebooking.

Please refer to 111 or the Government website for further advice if you are experiencing any of the symptoms above.

	<p>Parking on site is free of charge for patients. Consider all other forms of transport before using public transport. Our staff will discuss transport with you. There is limited transport available from the hospice.</p>
	<p>Do not arrive too early for your appointment and leave the Hospice as soon as your appointment is finished.</p>
	<p>When you arrive at the hospice, please wait in your transport. If no-one comes to meet you ring 0115 9621222 to tell us you have arrived. You will be asked some questions about how you are feeling on the day.</p>
	<p>Staff will ask you to use the hand sanitizer and will provide you with a surgical mask. If you are wearing your own mask you will be asked to replace it with the surgical mask while you are in the building.</p>
	<p>Please keep the mask on for the duration of your time in the hospice and avoid touching your face or adjusting the mask once you've put it on.</p>
	<p>All staff wear personal protective equipment when in close contact with you. When your appointment is finished, your health professional will advise you what to do next.</p>
	<p>A one way system will be in place in the hospice. A member of staff will take you to the GRACE unit. Please do not visit any other part of the building.</p>
	<p>Remember to stay 2 metres apart during your time with us and follow the signs in the building. At the end of your session our staff will take you to the exit. You should dispose of your mask at the bin by the hospice exit unless you are in hospice transport in which case you will need to keep your mask on until you arrive home.</p>

If you are still concerned about attending, please let us know as soon as possible.