Tower Hamlets GP Care Group COVID-19 Home Monitoring Service

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Tower Hamlets GP Care Group
COVID-19 Home Monitoring Service

Background & Context

- Response based upon early indications from other countries about need for hospitalisation during the pandemic & the likely a significant level of patients requiring management by primary care
- Need to minimise face to face home visits to provide support whilst reducing risk of infection and to conserve the use of staffing and beds.
- Emerging evidence of apparently ‘well’ Covid-19 patients with very low oxygen saturation as well as respiratory distress where saturation levels still safe
- Anticipation that this would reassure patients and clinicians about the safety of staying at home

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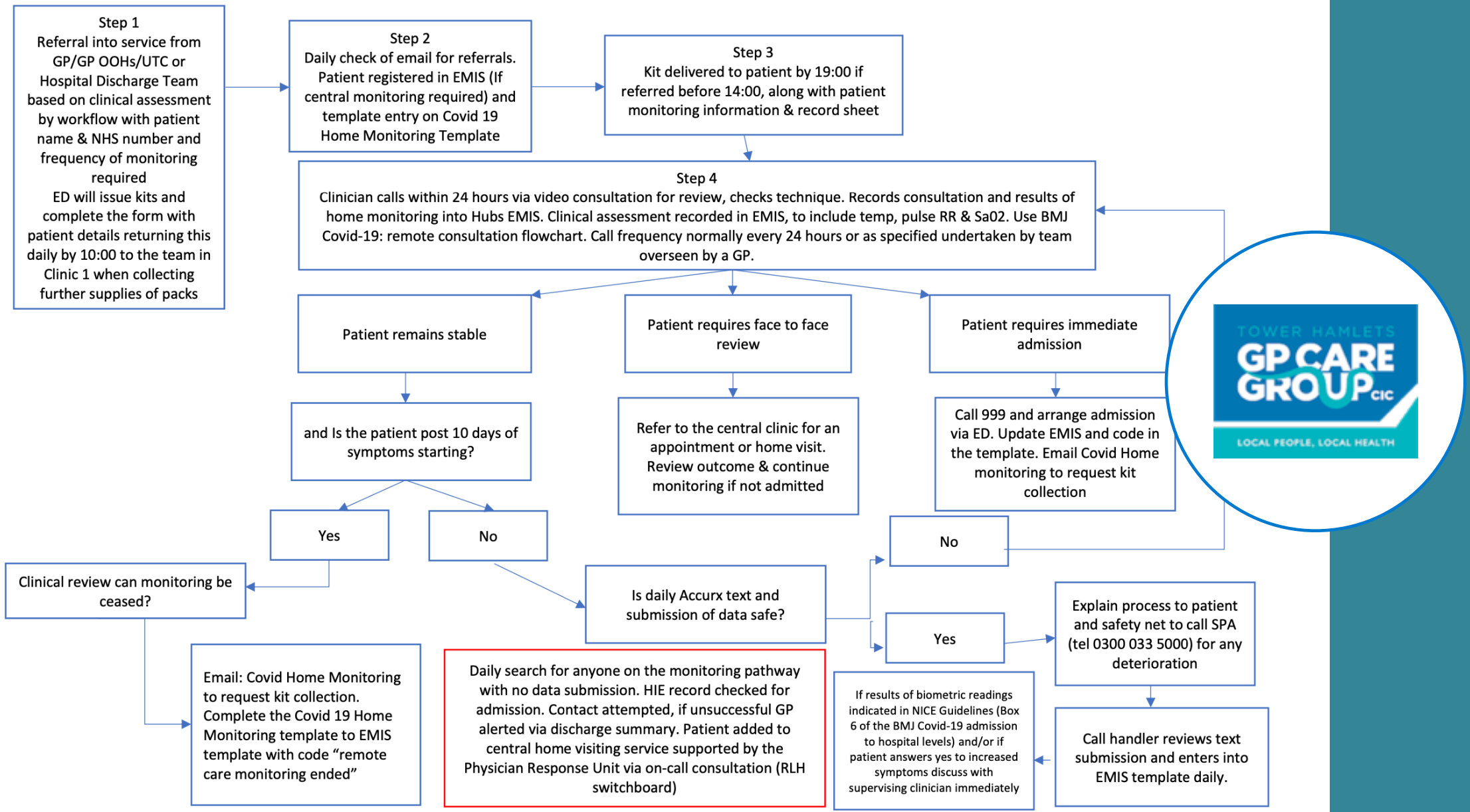
Inclusion Criteria

- Patients with moderate Covid 19 symptoms at high risk of deterioration
- Patients with mild or moderate Covid 19 symptoms with additional risk factors eg co-morbidities
- Patient consents to home monitoring and to share data across EMIS system including access to GP records

Exclusion Criteria

- Patients with a DNaR in place. The clinician should consider & discuss active treatment as appropriate but active monitoring is not advised in this situation.

Covid-19 Remote Home Monitoring Service Pathway V3.0 – April 2020



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Challenges

- How to deliver and collect packs
- Managing referrals
- Clinical supervision for call handlers

Very Early Learning

- Adding Care Home pathway
- Patients require support in using the monitoring devices
- Patients were more unwell than anticipated
- Practices wanted to follow up patients themselves

Next Steps

- Expanding the service to flexibly enable practices to monitor patients
- Audit including patient outcomes & experience of using the service
- Expanding inclusion criteria for those being discharged post-intubation (anticipate will require a slightly different pathway)