Guidelines for Home Care and Hospice Clinicians Regarding Coronavirus

April 2, 2020

PRIOR TO EVERY VISIT – CALL YOUR PATIENT BEFORE GOING INTO THEIR HOME

Checklist for Potential COVID-19 Patient

1. Screen patient (or CG/family member) for travel outside of the United States and/or prolonged contact with a person confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19.
   a. Was the person exposed to anyone with Coronavirus/COVID-19?
   b. If yes, what was the type of exposure: Direct physical contact, household contact, cruise ship, event/meeting?
   c. Was the person's approximate date of exposure, travel w/in the last 14 days?

   AND

2. Screen patient (or care giver/family member) for signs/symptoms - fever >101.5 F (38.6 C), cough, new onset shortness of breath.

If screening is done over phone, prior to Home Visit—and patient answers YES to both questions—instruct patient to call their PCP for further instructions. Recommend that clinician does not make home visit until patient has been seen by PCP/ER. Enter Point of Care Alert—"potential COVID-19 exposure".

Actions to take if during a home visit you encounter anyone whose answers to these 2 questions are "YES"

1. Remember COVID-19 is spread by close, prolonged contact, generally via respiratory droplets.

2. Implement standard, contact, & droplet precautions: put on gloves, mask/goggles or mask with face shield if you enter a home and discover patient/family with potential symptoms.

3. Have person who has answered “Yes” to the 2 questions put on a face mask (if patient), if family member, etc. ask to them to put on a face mask and go to another room.

4. Ask the person exhibiting these symptoms if they have spoken with their physician about these specific symptoms very recently? If so what, was their physician's response/instructions?

5. If not—instruct the person to call their physician now, and specifically tell the physician about their symptoms and the fact that they have traveled outside of the United States within the last 14 days or have had exposure to someone with confirmed/suspected Coronavirus. Tell the patient/family member to ask for specific instructions on what to do, including where should they get testing done.
6. Instruct the household re: personal protection from potential illness:
   a. Handwashing: CMS recommends using 69-95% alcohol-based hand rub/hand sanitizer, washing with soap & water for at least 20 seconds, if hands are visibly soiled, requires soap and water washing for at least 20 seconds.
   b. Avoid contact with another person’s nasopharyngeal secretions, mouth secretions
   c. Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person’s blood or body fluids (such as clothes, bedding, needles, and medical equipment), without using protective equipment.

7. Clean all “high-touch” surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
   a. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

8. Contact your supervisor to report above information.
   a. It is recommended prior to the next clinician/employee visiting the patient, the person with the symptoms, reported recent travel outside of the United States/contact with confirmed COVID-19 person, etc, must have been evaluated by a physician or emergency room and received appropriate assessment and follow-up.

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19) include:

- Fever (greater than 38.6°C or 101.5°F)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after close contact/exposure to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Persons who are at risk for contracting disease:

- Persons with traveled outside the US within the last 14 days
- Persons who are a close contact with a person who has been diagnosed/suspected of having COVID-19
- Persons who attended events with large crowds

We are fortunate to work as part of a strong, agile national/state system that is bringing its full resource capability to ensure excellent patient care and colleague safety especially during times of special concern. Knowing this we have designed safe processes and training to ensure that we contain that risk and keep colleague safety at the forefront of our work. We will carefully monitor and follow all OSHA, CDC and other guidelines regarding colleague safety.
1. Put on mask/face shield, gloves (gown if have).
2. PCP: Was PCP called? What were their instructions/recommendations?
3. Inform your clinical manager
4. Inform Health Department to report at-risk patients (Agency to do, if not done by PCP).
5. Add point care alert "suspected COVID-19"