

HSE Criteria for Patient Referral to Community Assessment Hubs (CAHs)

Inclusion criteria:

1. The cohort of patients over the age of 16 who are COVID-19 positive or presumptive COVID-19 and whose symptoms are worsening and they require urgent assessment.
2. Deteriorating COVID-19 related symptoms especially respiratory symptoms suggestive of viral pneumonia and/or urgent non COVID-19 related symptoms in a patient suspected of COVID-19 illness where they need face to face assessment to decide if they need to be referred to hospital or can be managed at home e.g. sub-acute abdomen.
3. All other patients with COVID-19 or presumptive COVID-19 will be managed within the current guidelines in General Practice through telephone triage, testing where patient meets criteria and in surgery respiratory assessments

**If your normal practice would be to refer straight to ED e.g. Cardiac chest pain , TIA , CVA then use this route just alert ED/Ambulance that patient is COVID-19 test positive or presumptive positive .

Exclusion criteria:

1. **Children under 16 years of age** with presumptive or known COVID 19 who are deteriorating are best triaged by their own GP. Based on the clinical discretion of the GP they will either be brought into GP surgery for a clinical assessment or referred directly to the Emergency Department.
2. **Nursing Home residents** are better assessed by their own GP remotely and ED referral if necessary

Pregnant Women: Where following a telephone consultation with a GP if a concern is identified which requires a pregnant woman with suspected Covid-19 symptoms to be examined face to face, clinical judgement is required with respect to where this examination should take place.

If deteriorating Covid-19 is suspected, transfer to an acute hospital ED is advised with the appropriate level of urgency. Otherwise, where the problem is primarily obstetric, it is suggested that she and/or the doctor should liaise directly with the obstetric unit in the first instance as this is likely to be the most appropriate service.

Pregnant women should not normally be referred to COVID assessment hubs