



GP Factsheet: Seeking clinical advice from EMHS for COVID-positive patients

This factsheet provides general information on how general practitioners can access **clinical advice** for COVID-positive patients who live within the East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS), which comprises Royal Perth Hospital (RPH), Bentley Hospital, Armadale Health Service (AHS), Kalamunda Hospital and St John of God Midland Public Hospital (SJGMPH). Please only contact EMHS hospitals for patients who reside in the [EMHS metropolitan catchment area](#).

Please note that the **WA COVID Care at Home Service** concludes on 31 December 2022 and is no longer accepting new patients.

The **COVID Positive Home Visiting and Telehealth Service** will also conclude on 31 December 2022. Please click [here](#) for more information on the COVID Positive Home Visiting and Telehealth Service.

For COVID-positive patients residing in the [EMHS metropolitan catchment area](#):

Please first refer to:

- [HealthPathways: COVID-19 Assessment and Management](#).
- [Home-care guidelines for patients with COVID-19](#) (released by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners)
- [COVID-19 information for Health Professionals](#) (released by the WA Department of Health)

EMHS Clinical advice on COVID-related health problems

1. How do I seek urgent clinical advice on managing COVID-related health problems for my COVID-positive patient?

Royal Perth and Bentley Hospitals	Please ring RPH switchboard on (08) 9224 2244, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the On Call Infectious Diseases Registrar or On Call Respiratory Registrar (based on symptoms of concern)
Armadale Health Service and Kalamunda Hospital	Please ring AHS switchboard on (08) 9391 2000, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the MAU admitting consultant
St John of God Midland Public Hospital	Please ring the SJGMPH GP Hotline on (08) 9462 4222, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the COVID Consultant of the day





2. How do I seek clinical advice (including accessing social supports) on my COVID-positive patient who was recently discharged?

Call 13 COVID [13 26 843] for welfare and general/social support.	
Royal Perth and Bentley Hospitals	Please ring RPH switchboard on (08) 9224 2244, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the COVID Care Navigator
Armadale Health Service and Kalamunda Hospital	Please ring AHS switchboard on (08) 9391 2000, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the Duty Nurse Manager
St John of God Midland Public Hospital	Please ring the SJGMPH GP Hotline on (08) 9462 4222, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the COVID Consultant of the day

3. How do I access specialist care for my patient experiencing suspected post-COVID syndrome?

Where the patient’s symptoms are likely to be due to the development or exacerbation of a condition(s) for which sub-specialty medical review is clinically appropriate, refer to the specialty according to symptom(s) of main concern via usual outpatient referral pathways.

EMHS Post-COVID Clinic: EMHS has commenced a Post-COVID Clinic based at Bentley Health Service and led by a Senior Physiotherapist to see patients who meet the following criteria:

- aged over 16 years
- residing within the [EMHS metropolitan catchment](#), or Kimberley, Pilbara and Wheatbelt patients unable to be managed locally (according to current WACHS Link pathways),
- are **at least twelve weeks** from the date of SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis (confirmed by positive RAT or PCR),
- are experiencing ongoing non-urgent significant symptoms and objective physical findings without other obvious cause on the GP screen below, or cognitive/psychological concerns that are failing to resolve with primary care and that the GP feels warrant further review, and,
- where the GP screen does not detect conditions more suitable for direct referral for sub-specialty medical review or Community Rehabilitation.

GP Screen and Referral Information:
Patients presenting to their GP with post-COVID-19 concerns should be screened, **as appropriate according to their presenting syndrome** (condition), with:

- routine clinical assessment that considers physical, psychological and social domains
- blood tests (FBP, CRP, ferritin, D-dimer)





- if significant shortness of breath and/or decreased exercise tolerance without other known cause, the referral should include the results of:
 - oximetry (if possible, at rest and on exertion)
 - spirometry,
 - a chest x-ray (PA and lateral); and
 - recent clinically appropriate investigations (echo and CT thorax) to rule out cardiac failure or pulmonary disease
- if significant cognitive symptoms including “brain fog” without other known cause, the referral should include the results of
 - cognitive screen (MMSE or AMTS) if presenting with confusion or cognitive concerns
 - recent clinically appropriate investigations (e.g., CT Brain)

If these tests are indicated, but not able to be completed (e.g. rural/regional patients) the reasons should be specified in the referral.

Referral to the EMHS Post-COVID Clinic is via the [Central Referral Service \(CRS\)](#). Suitable patients referred to sub-specialty clinics are being diverted to the Post-COVID Clinic, so these do not need to be re-referred.

For information about the EMHS Post-COVID Clinic, please see the [EMHS Post COVID-19 Clinic internet page](#).

Telephone Support for GPs: GPs wishing to discuss Post COVID referrals, investigations or management can contact the clinic’s Senior Physiotherapist by telephone on 0481483611. As this clinic operates part-time, voicemail can be left on the clinic telephone number. The Physiotherapist will endeavour to return GP calls as soon as possible.

EMHS Clinical advice on non-COVID-related health problems in COVID-positive patients

4. How do I seek urgent clinical advice on non-COVID-related health problems for my COVID-positive patient?

Royal Perth and Bentley Hospitals	Please ring RPH switchboard on (08) 9224 2244, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the relevant specialist team on call
Armadale Health Service and Kalamunda Hospital	Please ring AHS switchboard on (08) 9391 2000, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the MAU admitting consultant
St John of God Midland Public Hospital	Please ring the SJGMPH GP Hotline on (08) 9462 4222, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the relevant specialist team on call





5. How do I seek urgent clinical advice on geriatric-specific issues (e.g. delirium, agitation) for my elderly COVID-positive patient?

Royal Perth and Bentley Hospitals	Please ring RPH switchboard on (08) 9224 2244, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the On Call Geriatrician
Armadale Health Service and Kalamunda Hospital	For an elderly person living in a Residential Aged Care Facility, please ring the Residential Care Line on (08) 6457 3146 (8am-6pm, 7 days a week). For an elderly person living at home, please ring AHS switchboard on (08) 9391 2000 and ask for the Older Adult Liaison Service (Mon-Fri 8am-4pm). For out-of-hours enquiries, please ring AHS switchboard on (08) 9391 2000, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the General Medical Consultant On Call .
St John of God Midland Public Hospital	Please ring the SJGMPH GP Hotline on (08) 9462 4222, identify yourself as a GP and ask for the On Call Geriatrician

6. How do I seek clinical advice on end of life/symptom control for my COVID-positive patient?

Please ring the **state-wide Palliative Care Outreach Service** on 1300 55 86 55 (24 hour advisory service for doctors and nurses). Enquiries will be taken by a Palliative Care Consultant.

COVID-19 information for patients and visitors of Royal Perth Hospital is available [here](#), Bentley Hospital is available [here](#), Armadale Health Service is available [here](#), and St John of God Midland Public Hospital is available [here](#).

