
All District Health Boards

1 July 2020

Dear PHO Chief Executive Officers

COVID-19 Assessments in General Practice: Updated Framework

On 23 April 2020 I advised all PHO CEOs of the amendments of funded [COVID-19 assessment](#) consultations. Following the release of the Ministry of Health's revised Case Definition on 24 June 2020, the assessment framework has been updated in conjunction with PHO Clinical Leads and CEOs. I am pleased to advise this has been approved by National General Managers' Planning and Funding.

The updated service expectations for this three-tier assessment process are set out in the appendix to this letter. This replaces the framework that has been in place until now.

If you have any questions, please contact your local DHB portfolio manager.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nick Chamberlain

Chief Executive, Northland District Health Board

Lead District Health Board Chief Executive for Primary Care and Public Health

cc: Liz Stockley, CEO, GPNZ
GMs Planning and Funding, All DHBs
Primary Care Portfolio Managers, All DHBs

Appendix: General Practice-Based COVID-19 Assessments: Three Tier Framework

COVID-19 Assessments			
Tier	1 COVID-19 Triage or Telehealth Assessment of patient with symptoms of COVID-19 in community	2 COVID-19 symptoms alone	3 Higher Index of Suspicion COVID-19 symptoms plus HIS criteria
Setting	Telephone or video	Must be seen in-person by clinician in appropriate setting (e.g. clinic / car)	Must be seen in-person, ideally in a single clinic room (red stream)
Risk Level	-	Low (symptoms without epidemiological criteria)	Must meet Higher Index of Suspicion criteria including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • returned from overseas • close contact of positive case • had direct contact with a person who has travelled overseas (eg Customs and Immigration staff, staff at quarantine/isolation facilities) • worked on an international aircraft or shipping vessel • cleaned at an international airport or maritime port in areas/ conveniences visited by international arrivals, or • any other criteria requested by the local Medical Officer of Health
Examination	Assessment by Nurse, NP or GP including risk assessment, and detailed consultation	Visual +/- basic examination and obs. with swab, according to clinical discretion *	Visual +/- basic examination and obs. with swab*
Follow up care	-	Advise Test results included in fee	Advise Test results included in fee
Infection control	-	Full PPE to take swab, cleaning. Self isolation not required while test result is pending.	Full PPE to take swab, cleaning. Medical Officer of Health Notification. Self isolation while test result is pending - refer to Ministry of Health advice for specific detail.
Fee Claim	\$60	\$60 no swab \$120 with swab	\$250
Condition of claiming fee	<p>No fee to patient (including no charge for prescription) No claim for Clawback Limited to one claim per day per person, per practice No simultaneous claiming against any other funding stream Patient must consent to a swab being taken</p> <p>* If the patient is sent to hospital, then they should not be swabbed in the practice</p>		