



17 March, 2020

Interim Guidelines for Home Healthcare Services
(valid from Friday, 20 March until Monday, 20 April)

Clinics and hospitals can provide home healthcare services: All HCOs in DHCC can provide home healthcare services within licensed specialties. This service shall be provided to only existing patients. The home healthcare session should be appropriately documented with visit logs and medical records, and follow applicable infection control practices and standard patient safety guidelines.

Guidelines:

- Standard precautions include a group of infection prevention practices that apply to all patients, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status, in any setting in which healthcare is delivered. These include: hand hygiene, use of gloves, gown, mask, eye protection, or face shield, depending on the anticipated exposure.
- Infection control related measures.
- Patient and family screening through the phone should be conducted before setting an appointment to avoid home visit of any suspected cases of COVID-19/self-quarantine cases.
- Ensure triage of patients with critical symptoms and refer to emergency services accordingly.
- Ensure all required Personal Protective Equipment (mask, gowns, gloves as well as sanitisers/antiseptics/ alcohol hand rubs, medical grade liquid soap) are set and packed with you before going to the home care setting.
 - Professional should wear masks during the home care visit.
 - A gown should be worn to protect the skin and prevent the contamination of clothing during procedures and patient care activities in which there may be contact with the patient or their



immediate care environment. The gown should not be reused for multiple home visits, even for repeated contacts with the same patient in the home. When leaving the patient's care area, the gown should be removed, disposed of, and hand hygiene performed.

- Healthcare professional should wash his/her hands before and after examining/providing patient care in their home. Handwashing is regarded as the most important measure to break the chain of infection among the various protective measures of infection control. The use of liquid soap is necessary, because it is likely that various bacterial organisms will be growing in the soap plate or in the soap itself at home. After washing, the hands should be wiped completely dry with a paper towel.
- Gloves should be worn when in contact with the patient's blood, body fluid and secretions. Handwashing should follow after removing the gloves.

For details, please refer to the following DHCR standards and guidelines at [this](#) link:

- DHCR Standard Precautions Guidelines
- DHCR Sharps Management Guidelines
- DHCR Hand Hygiene Guidelines

Ends

