

COVID-19



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe

COVID-19 clinical management

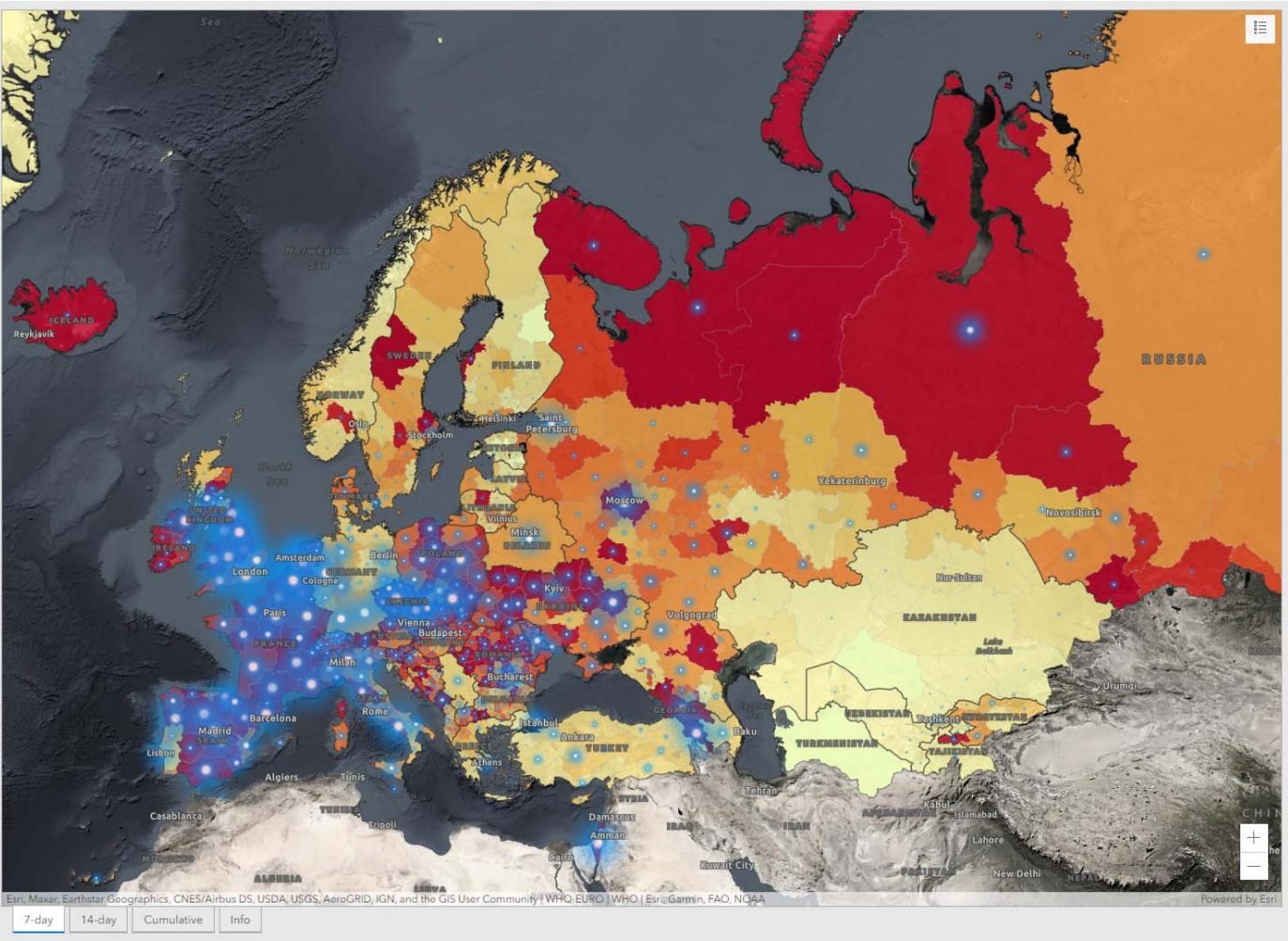
14 October 2020

Dr Dina Pfeifer, Medical Officer, WHO Health Emergency Programme

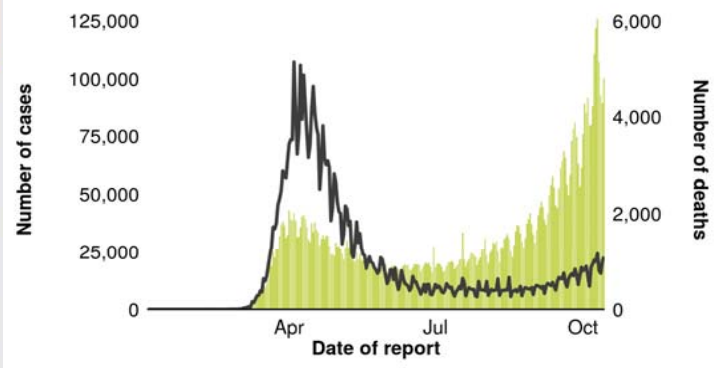
Getty images

WHO European Region Subnational Explorer (15 Oct 2020)

<https://who.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ead3c6475654481ca51c248d52ab9c61>

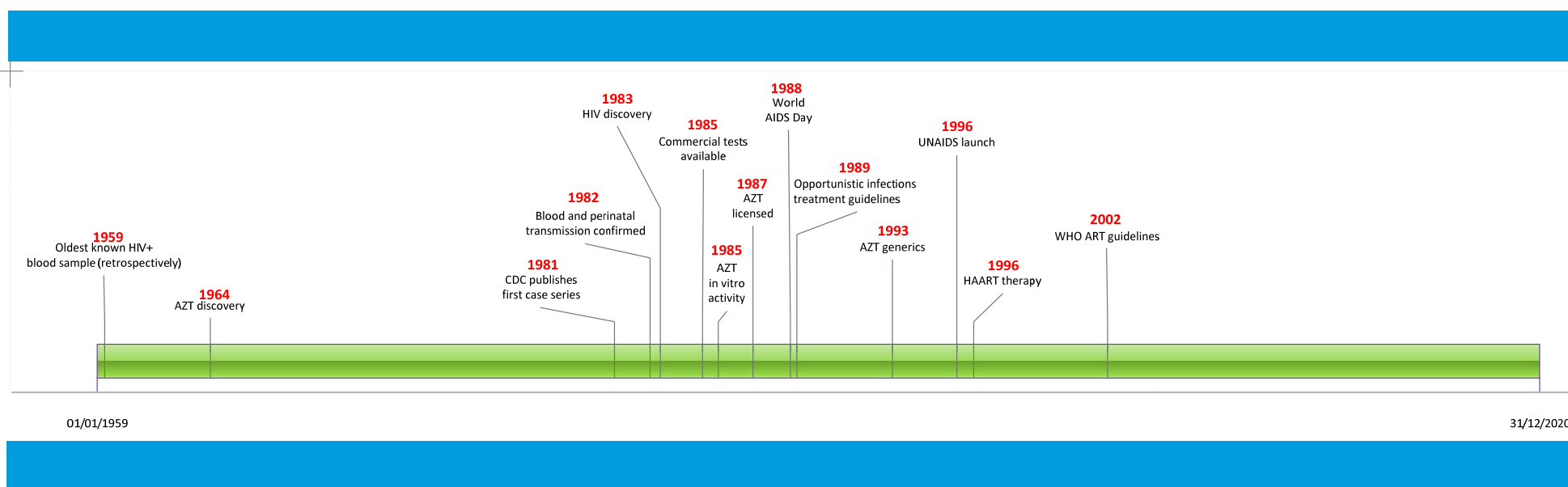


Cases and deaths by date of report



Preamble

Are we expecting too much?



We stand nakedly in front of a pandemic as mortal as any pandemic there has ever been'

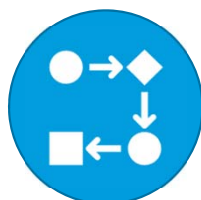
Halfdan Theodore Mahler, WHO Director General, Aug 1986

Scope of presentation



Guidelines and guidance

Methodology, availability and quality



SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19

Pathogenesis and immunity



Novel & fast evolving conditions

Effective and affordable choice of interventions



Way forward ...

Monitoring and evaluation

Clinical guidelines

Definition

Systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances

Institute of Medicine. 1990. *Clinical Practice Guidelines: Directions for a New Program*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/1626>.

Aim – to promote “best practices” that improve outcomes of treatment

- outcomes identified in clinical trials are reproducible in normal practice
- rapid and universal adoption of an effective treatment leads to optimal treatment for the whole population
- an option for improving the quality of care

Problems and limitations

- scientific evidence about what to recommend is often lacking, misleading, or misinterpreted
- recommendations are influenced by the opinions and clinical experience as well as composition of the guideline development group
- patients' needs may not be the only priority in making recommendations

Novel and fast evolving outbreaks

Research in emergencies

Why are randomized controlled trials so important?

Observational study

Observed effect = True effect + Selection effect

Randomized trial

Observed effect = True effect

Research vs. Care

Requires research integrated with care

Expended access

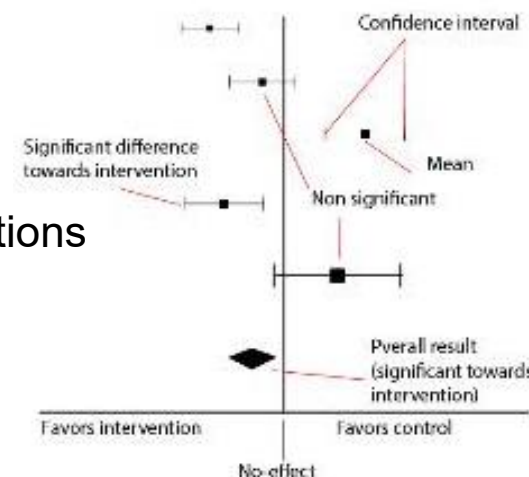
Ethical principles need to guide the interventions

Aim to addresses uncertainty about the safety and efficacy of the interventions

Prioritization of candidate interventions

Choosing appropriate design and sample size

Standardized approach with broad outreach to address heterogeneity



Cognitive biases

Systematic pattern of deviation from norm or rationality in judgment

Type	Context	Example in COVID-19
Ambiguity (risk) aversion	Inclination to adopt off-label therapies when other strategies (prone positioning, conservative fluid management) do not result in rapid, observable improvements in clinical condition	Prophylactic vs. therapeutic anticoagulation
Action (commission) bias	Decision to use an unproven medication as part of treatment plan because... <i>“doing something is better than doing nothing”</i>	Hydroxychloroquine Azithromycin, Ribavirin
Availability bias	Easily recalled information incorrectly guides decision making ... <i>“It’s a cytokine release syndrome!”</i> therefore >>>> Prescribe anticytokine drugs	Tocilizumab, Anakinra, Sarilumab

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2020.05.548>

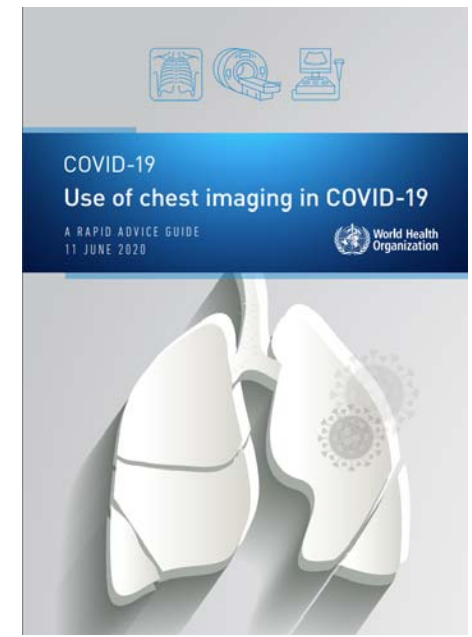
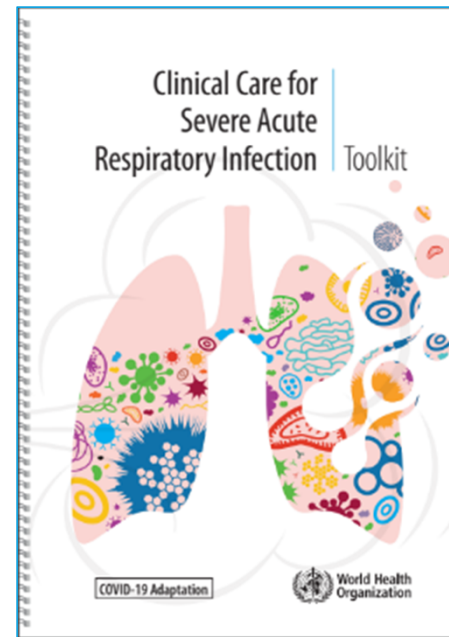
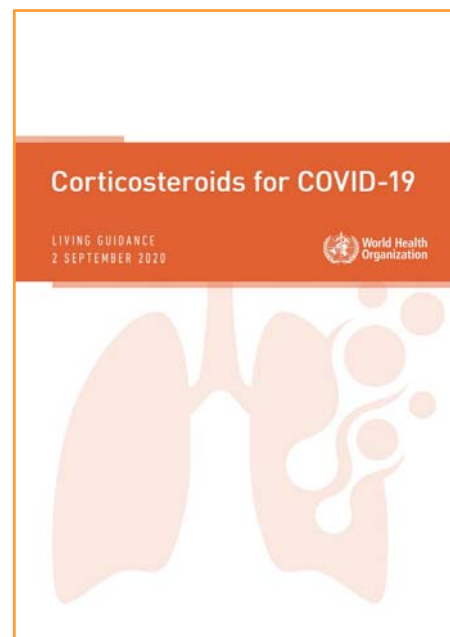
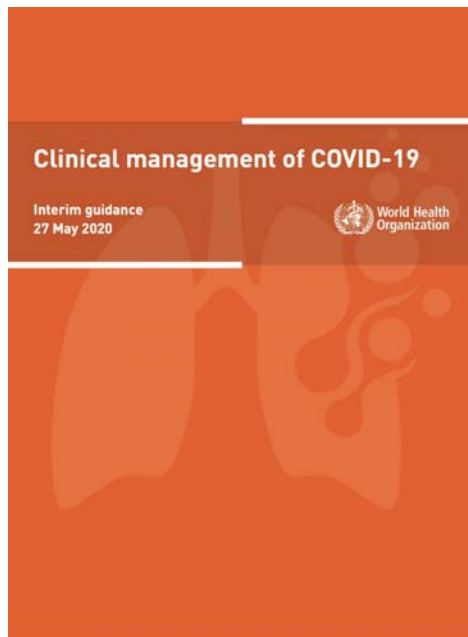
Cognitive biases (...cont'd)

Systematic pattern of deviation from norm or rationality in judgment

Type	Context	Example in COVID-19
Framing effect	Need to consider information independently (is medication A with 90% cure rate superior to medication B with 5% failure rate ???)	ACE inhibitors, ARBs, NASIDs
Overconfidence	Realization that physicians can often be wrong, despite best intentions	High vs. lower PEEP, failure to consider lung recruitability
Representativeness bias	Fatalistic attitudes regarding outcomes while COVID-19 base rates, true prevalence of disease, residual morbidity and mortality is still evolving	Access to care – elderly or individuals with underlying conditions

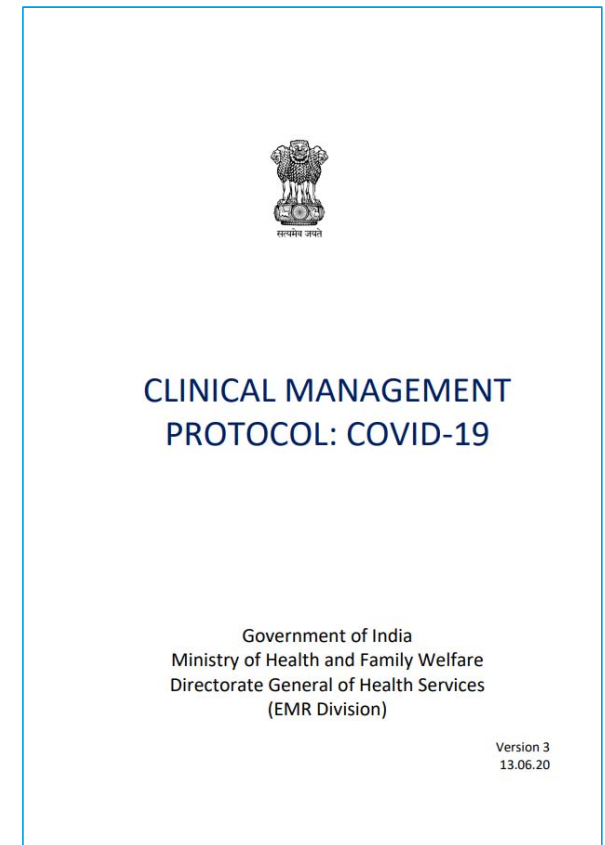
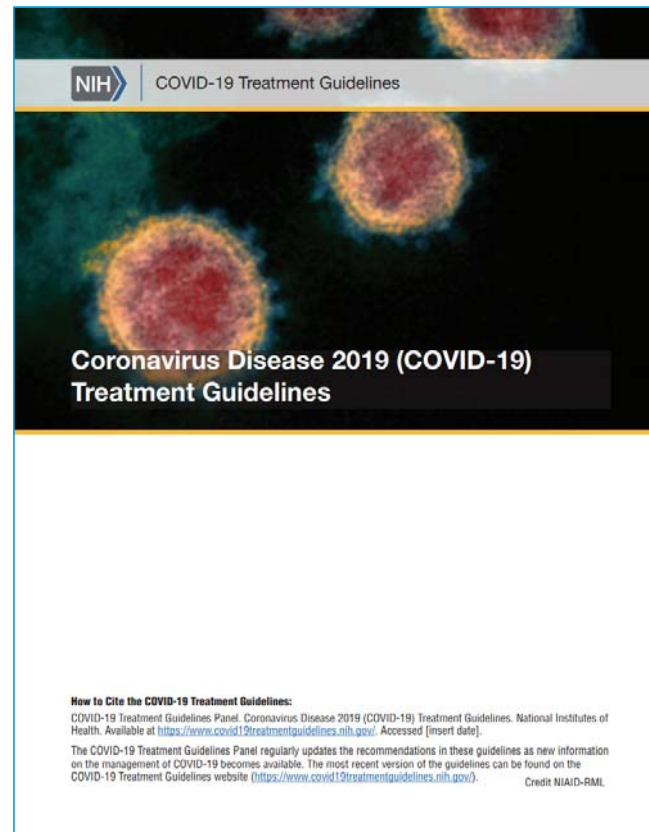
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2020.05.548>

WHO clinical guidance - global



<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/patient-management>

COVID-19 national guidance



https://static-0.rosminzdrav.ru/system/attachments/attaches/000/050/584/original/03062020_%D0%9CR_COVID-19_v7.pdf

<https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ClinicalManagementProtocolforCOVID19.pdf>

Examples of additional resources

Ständiger Arbeitskreis der Kompetenz- und Behandlungszentren für Krankheiten durch hochpathogene Erreger am Robert Koch-Institut

Hinweise zu Erkennung, Diagnostik und Therapie von Patienten mit COVID-19

Stand: 09.10.2020

Für den STAKOB erarbeitet von:
Torklen Feld, Wolfgang Guggemos, Katrin Heim, Bettina Klug, Regine Lehnert, Christoph Lubbert, Michaela Nebank, Frieder Pfaffen, Katja Rothfuss, Stefan Schmedel, Miriam S. Stagemann, August Stich, Isabel Trebesch, Timo Wolf

Unter Mitwirkung von:
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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Infektiologie e.V. (DGI)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Pneumologie und Beatmungsmedizin e.V. (DGP)
Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte (BfArM)
Paul-Ehrlich Institut (PEI)

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Zusammenfassung der letzten Änderungen

Änderung vom 09.10.2020
Anpassung der Kriterien zur klinischen Einteilung, Ergänzungen zur Antikoagulation, zur Anwendung von Remdesivir und Dexamethason, Ergänzung der Hinweise zu Kindern

Änderung vom 06.08.2020
Anpassung der Informationen über Tocilizumab

Änderung vom 22.07.2020
Aktualisierung der Informationen über Dexamethason, redaktionelle Anpassungen

Änderung vom 16.07.2020
Ergänzung der Informationen über Remdesivir, Grafik zu Remdesivir und Dexamethason

Änderung vom 09.07.2020
Therapiehinweise für Remdesivir und Dexamethason

Änderung vom 04.07.2020
Ergänzung der Informationen über antivirale Therapien (Remdesivir)

Änderung vom 02.07.2020
Ergänzung der Informationen über antivirale Therapien (Lopinavir)

Änderung vom 24.06.2020
Anpassung der Informationen über Dexamethason

Änderung vom 18.06.2020
Ergänzung der Informationen über Dexamethason

Änderung vom 10.06.2020
Ergänzung der Informationen über antivirale Therapien (Rekonvaleszenten-Plasma)

Änderung vom 29.05.2020
Aufnahme der Warnhinweise zu Hydroxychloroquin

Änderung vom 19.05.2020
Anwendungshinweise zu Remdesivir

Änderung vom 07.05.2020
Aktualisierung der Symptomliste und redaktionelle Änderungen

Änderung vom 17.04.2020
Einzelne Aktualisierungen und redaktionelle Änderungen

Änderung vom 08.04.2020
Aufnahme von Hinweisen zu thromboembolischen Ereignissen, allgemeinen Hinweisen zu antiviraler Therapie und Erläuterungen zu individuellem Heilversuch, off-label-use, Härtefall-Programm

Hinweise zu Erkennung, Diagnostik und Therapie von Patienten mit COVID-19
Stand: 09.10.2020, DOI: 10.25949/RS9.15,
Veröffentlicht unter www.rki.de/covid-19-therapie-stakob



AWMF-Register-Nr. 113/001

Empfehlungen zur intensivmedizinischen Therapie von Patienten mit COVID-19

S1-Leitlinie

Stand 21.07.2020 (Version 3)

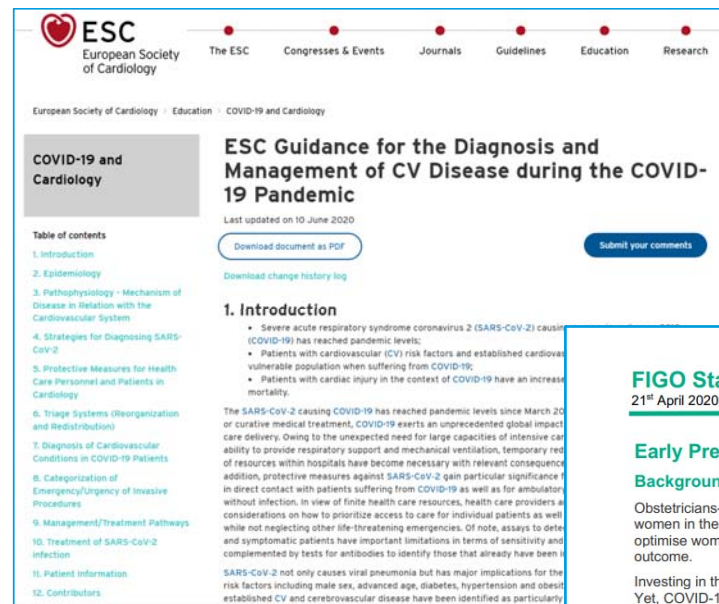
Stefan Kluge^{1,2,3,10}, Uwe Janssens^{1,2,10}, Tobias Welte^{1,3,10}, Steffen Weber-Carstens^{2,4,10}, Gereon Schälte⁴, Bernd Salzberger⁵, Petra Gastmeier⁶, Florian Langer⁷, Martin Wepler⁴, Michael Westhoff⁸, Michael Pfeifer³, Florian Hoffmann^{2,8}, Bernd W. Böttiger^{3,8}, Gernot Marx^{2,4,10} und Christian Karagiannis^{1,2,3,10}

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⁸Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kinder- und Jugendmedizin (DGKJ), Berlin
⁹Deutscher Rat für Wiederbelebung (German Resuscitation Council; GRC), Ulm
¹⁰ARDS Netzwerk Deutschland, Berlin

https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Kommissionen/Stakob/Stellungnahmen/Stellungnahme-Covid-19_Therapie_Diagnose.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

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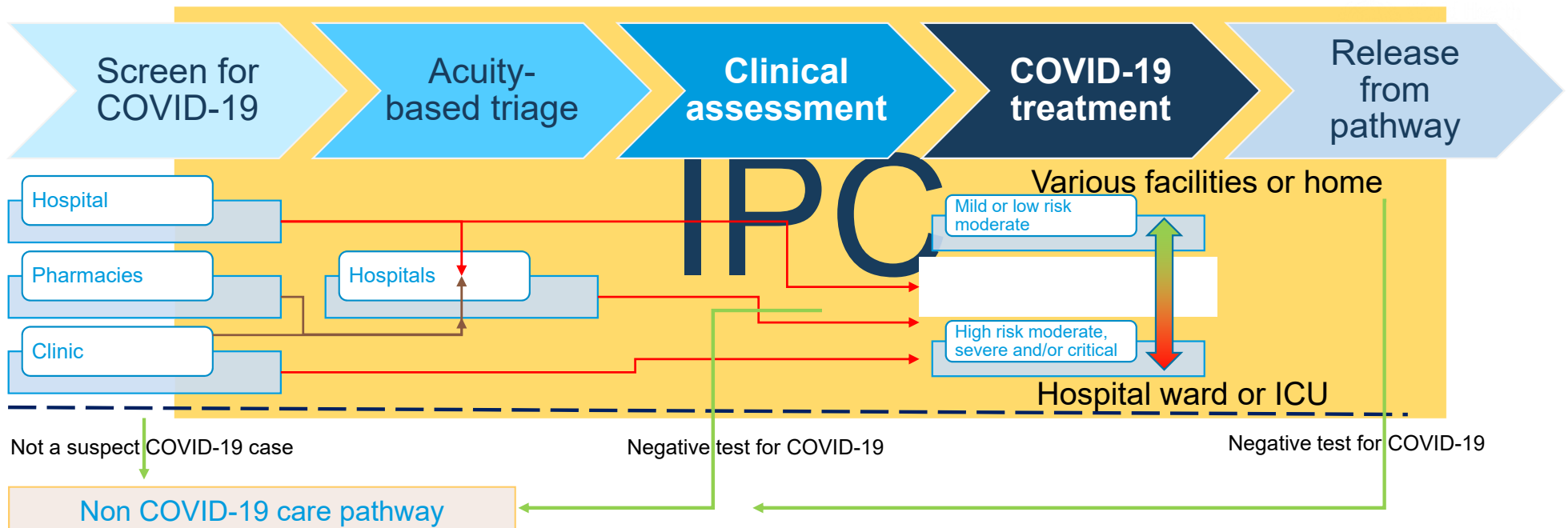


This means effective use of contraception allows women to time pregnancies. Despite such recommendations, 50% of pregnancies are unplanned, or surprises. During COVID-19, easy access to contraception has become a barrier in several regions. Women may be balancing personal economic dilemmas, the concern of a biological clock, and the unknown impact of a COVID-19 infection on pregnancy. Each woman makes a decision about conception that reflects her personal needs and desires. Historically, the relationship between high mortality events such as this pandemic and the prediction of future fertility is complicated. Events like hurricanes, earthquakes and famines have been associated with decreased number of births nine months later.

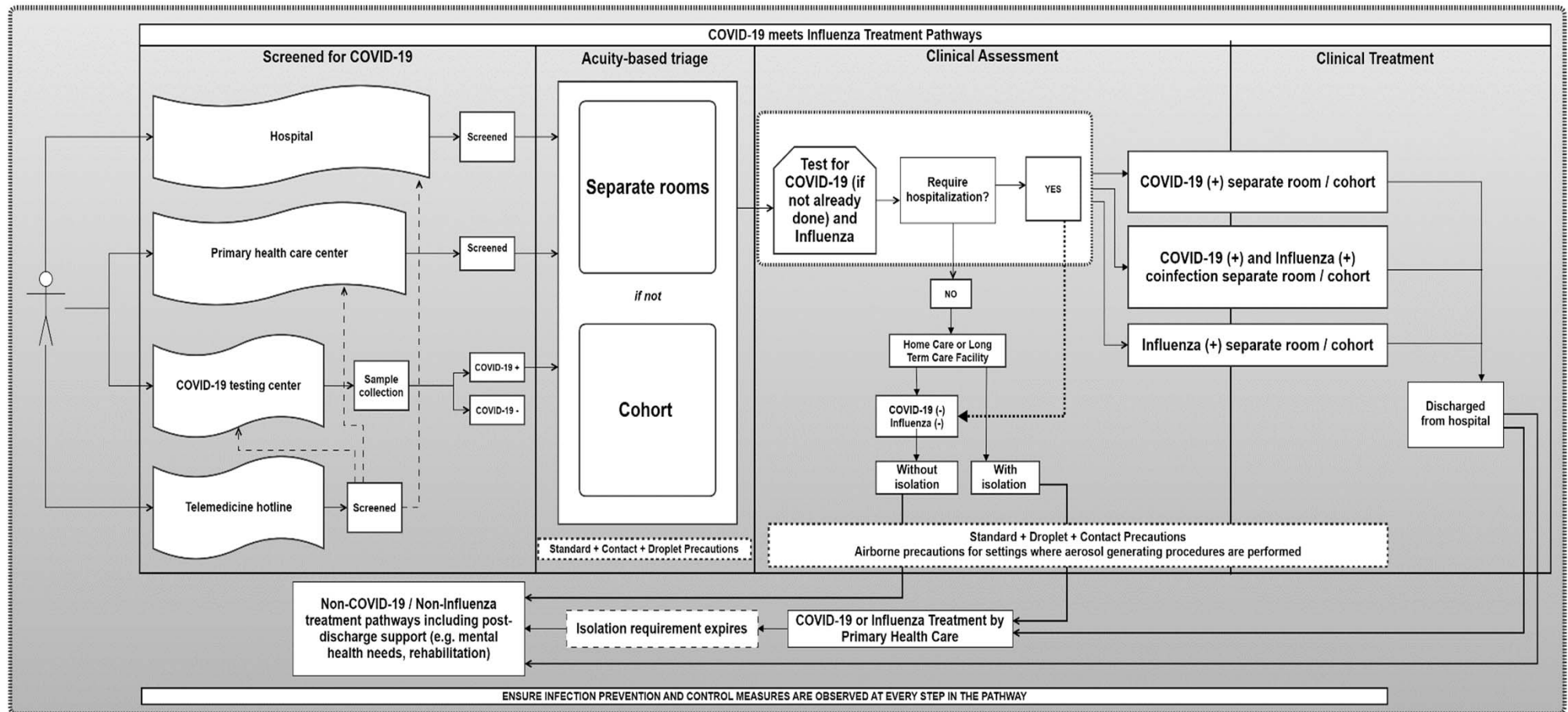
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WHO COVID-19 care pathway

Version of 27 May 2020



COVID-19 meets influenza care pathway



Clinical management of an adult with mild COVID-19

General

- No symptoms or mild upper respiratory tract symptoms or cough, new bout of myalgia or asthenia
- No new shortness of breath or reduction in oxygen saturation
- Epidemiological management until confirmed as COVID-19
- Baseline assessment – (Is it a mild case?) address alternative diagnosis and underlying conditions
- Determining setting of care

Therapy

- Similar management to seasonal flu, advise to rest
- Antipyretics generally not required, but paracetamol or ibuprofen may be considered for symptomatic relief
- Do **NOT** prescribe:
 - ~~Antibiotics~~ (unless there is evidence of concurrent community acquired (bacterial) pneumonia)
 - ~~Dexamethasone~~ or other ~~corticosteroids~~
 - Any other experimental treatments outside of clinical trial (eg. ~~azithromycin, favipiravir, hydroxychloroquine, interferon, remdesivir, tocilizumab~~, etc)
- Continue with therapy for preexisting conditions
 - Inhaled and oral steroids for asthma or COPD similar to its use in viral exacerbation, do not use nebuliser

Clinical management of an adult with mild COVID-19

...cont'd

Therapy

- Continue with therapy for preexisting conditions
 - Conditions managed with immunosuppressants – change or cease only with assessment of treating physician
 - Diabetes and cardiovascular disease – continue ACE inhibitors/ARBs unless new contraindication develops, continue use (no change of dose) of insulin, other diabetic therapies or statins

Monitoring

- Infection prevention and control measures for patients managed at home
- Instruct patient and family members to watch for signs of deterioration
- Deploy pulse oximetry devices if feasible
- Monitor for symptoms persisting longer than 4 weeks

Escalation of care

- Transfer if patient develops symptoms or signs of moderate or severe COVID-19

Corticosteroid treatment for **severe** and **critical** cases

Population

This recommendation applies only to people with these characteristics:



Patients with confirmed covid-19

Disease severity

Non-severe

Severe

Critical

Absence of signs of severe or critical disease

SpO₂ < 90% on room air

Requires life sustaining treatment

Respiratory rate > 30 in adults

Acute respiratory distress syndrome

Raised respiratory rate in children

Sepsis

Signs of severe respiratory distress

Septic shock

Recommendation 2

Recommendation 1

Interventions compared

Usual supportive care

No corticosteroids

Corticosteroids

Suggested regimen

Acceptable alternative regimens

Dexamethasone

6 mg

Oral or intravenous

Daily for 7-10 days

Hydrocortisone

50 mg

Intravenous

Every 8 hours for 7-10 days

Methylprednisolone

10 mg

Intravenous

Every 6 hours for 7-10 days

Prednisone

40 mg

Oral

Daily for 7-10 days

Recommendation 1)

We recommend systemic corticosteroids rather than no corticosteroids for the treatment of patients with severe and critical COVID-19 (strong recommendation, based on moderate certainty evidence)

Recommendation 2)

We suggest not to use corticosteroids in the treatment of patients with non-severe COVID-19 (conditional recommendation, based on low certainty evidence)

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Corticosteroids-2020.1>
<https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/4446>

Global COVID-19 Clinical Data Platform



World Health
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Contribute your COVID-19 hospitalized patient data and help inform the development of optimum clinical management strategies

Email us at: covid_clinplatform@who.int to request further information or login credentials.
Website: <https://www.who.int/teams/health-care-readiness-clinical-unit/covid-19/data-platform>

Curing COVID-19

How to implement change in clinical management of novel and emerging infections?

Supportive care

- Apprise performance and ensure minimal standards of care are met
- Ensure equity in quality care delivery – utilize Hawthorne effect across the health care system
- Engage in advancing supportive care – search for better or more effective solutions

Refresh understanding of underlying concepts

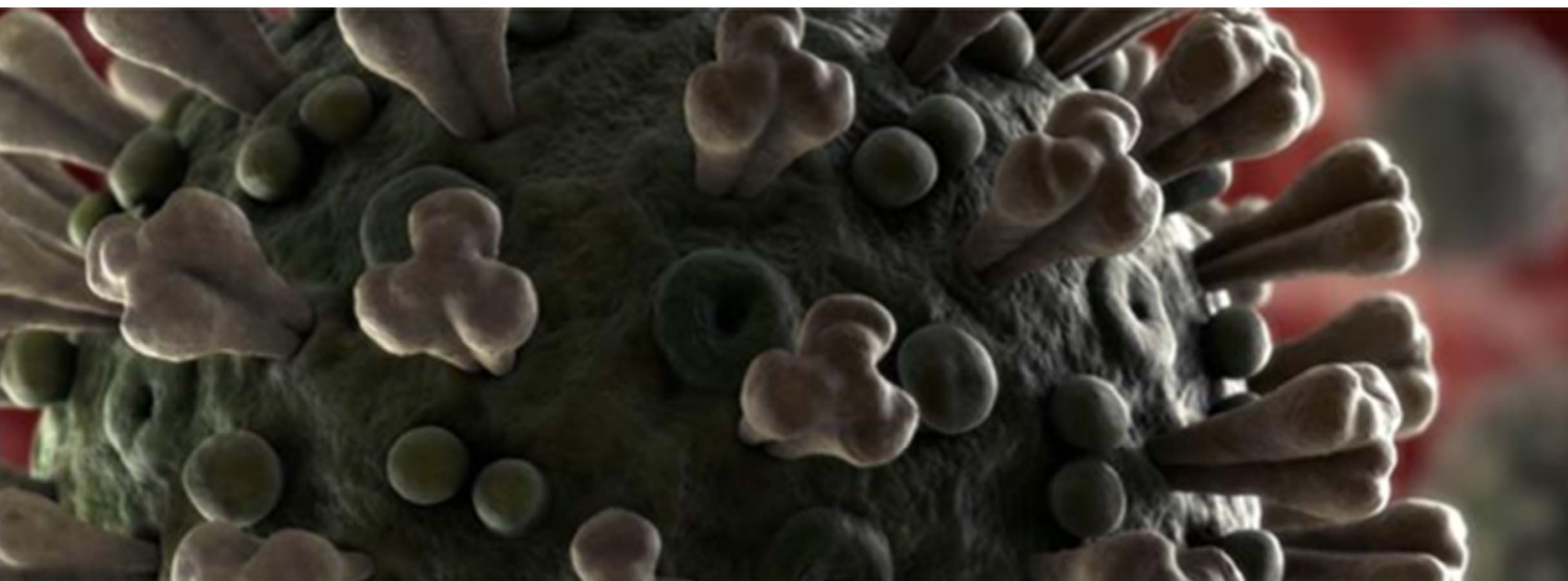
- Pathophysiology, patho- and immuno- genesis
- Get abreast with therapeutics modes of action
- Consider limits of diagnostic tests
- Understand capacity and mode of operation of equipment used
- Reconsider ethical principles

Novel conditions require novel solutions

- Avoid losing time and resources generating poor quality evidence – massive research effort is needed
- Embrace paradigm that clinical medicine is based on well designed research

Governance

- Clinicians adequately represented in decision making of preparedness and response activities
- Avoid politicization and conflicting interests



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