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# COVID-19 Pandemic Planning:

Emergency Department and Long-Term Care (LTC)  
Protocols

4/2/2020



Communication between the ED and LTC facilities is the key to establishing sound planning and appropriate patient care

- Organize conference call between Medical Directors and Directors of Care (RN) for LTCs in your area with the following agenda items:

# 1. Advanced Directives:



- Stress importance of LTC MDs need to reevaluate Advanced Care Directives with patients' families, highlighting limited resources (ventilators etc) at hospital and more humane treatment keeping patient at LTC facility...memo/bulletin should come from Medical Directors to MRP MDs at LTCs

## 2. MD to MD consultation:



- Ensure MD to MD consultation between LTC MDs and EPs (or Charge RN to MD). In your department create a Charge MD who responds to all external calls to the ED from community MDs; this Charge MD can provide a second opinion as well as highlight the status of the department and ICU to avoid unnecessary transfers. Remember, goal is to minimize transfer of patients to the ED

### 3) Lab tests:



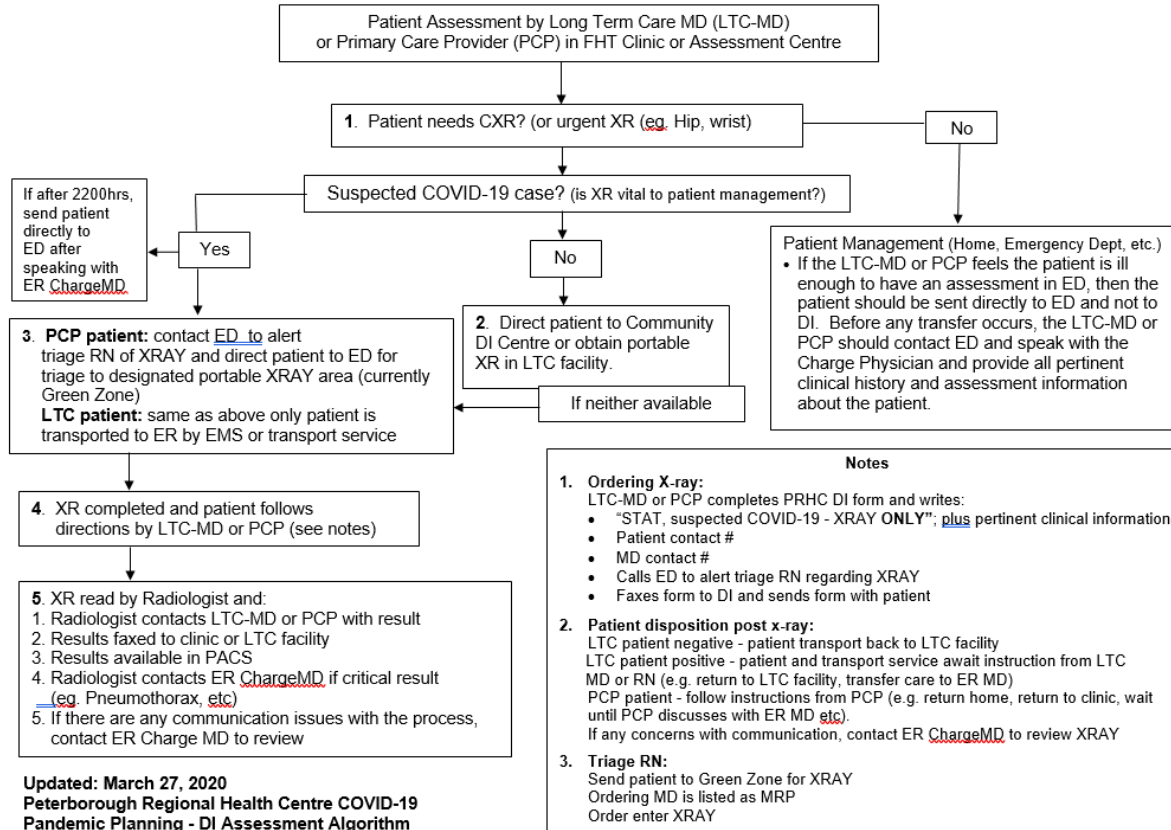
- Urgent bloodwork obtained by Lifelabs/Dynacare phlebotomists (in Ontario) and possibly analyzed at local hospital
  - need to develop protocol between labs and hospital, unless local labs able to provide results with quick turn around time
  - review with LTC MD need for bloodwork in first place

## 4) X-ray:



- Maximize use of portable x-ray service (in Ontario StL Diagnostic imaging is main provider). Also, review need for x-ray...e.g. hip/knee or even chest x-ray...will this change immediate management?
- Develop protocol with hospital diagnostic imaging to do x-ray in ER area (or other) and bypass need for EP involvement unless critical result (e.g. pneumothorax)(see algorithm)

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLANNING – DI ASSESSMENT





## 4) Homecare:

- Maximize use of homecare services for IV fluids, IV antibiotics etc. Should be no reason for first dose IV antibiotic in ED
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29517808>)



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THANK YOU.

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