



COVID-19 (nCorona) Virus Outbreak Control and Prevention State Cell

Health & Family Welfare Department

Government of Kerala

**GUIDELINES FOR OPTIMIZING CARE OF PRIMARY CONDITION IN PATIENT
WITH CONCOMITANT SARS-CoV-2 INFECTION**

N0-54/31/F2/H&FWD- 1st Feb 2022

As per the Order No 38/31/F2/H&FWD dated 5th August 2021 and as per the Order No 39/31/F2/H&FWD dated 6th August 2021 the detailed treatment guidelines for treating COVID patients were issued.

In the wake of OMICRON, based on the present information and scientific studies it is noticed that the Omicron infection among vaccinated individuals is of mild nature. But the spread of Omicron is very high due to increased infectivity. This has led to problems in providing efficient care and support for patients presenting to hospitals with other ailments., who gets diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection as well.

The following guidelines are issued to streamline the treatment to all non COVID diseases in the Hospitals.

1. The patients coming to hospital for outpatient services casualty service inpatient care, procedure etc, COVID test need to be done only for
 - a. Patients having symptoms suggestive of COVID
 - b. Patients whose treatment requires COVID status assessment as per the decision of a treating doctor

2. There need be a single point of entry in Casualty and OP for all patients. The staff on duty here need to maintain Standard precautions at all times. There can be a special area for catering to patients who present specifically with COVID related symptoms.

3. In all wards, the treating doctors and staff should adhere to strict standard precautions while attending to all patients. Admitting departments can earmark specific beds and wards for shifting COVID patients as and when they turn positive.

For instance, 1 ward can be earmarked as COVID specific for General Surgery, 1 for Orthopaedics, 1 for General Medicine etc. All Super specialty departments together can have 1 ward. From casualty also if the primary complaint is surgical and if that patient turns out to be

COVID positive, that patient should be admitted to the surgical ward earmarked for admitting COVID positive patients .

4. In these wards, the treatment and monitoring should be carried out by the admitting units themselves. COVID specific treatment can be continued in consultation with corresponding Medical units. Only those patients needing critical care support need to be shifted to COVID ICU under the admitting unit itself.

5. All health care workers must use N95 mask, goggles/face shield and surgical gown while working in both COVID and non-COVID pools. PPE kit need be used only in critical care units. Shoe cover and cap are not necessary as per WHO and CDC guidelines while caring for patients with COVID 19.


Principal Secretary