

# Audit on the pathway for suspected COVID-19 patients in the NDTC



João Costa<sup>1</sup>, Kiran Santlal<sup>2</sup>, Fiona Fenton<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> NDTC (National Drug Treatment Centre), 30-31 Pearse Street, Dublin 2

## Introduction

Full audit cycle on the management of patients attending our clinic who present with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.

## Objectives

Improve and standardize management of suspected COVID-19 patients at the NDTC (National Drug Treatment Centre).

## Methods

Gold standard: HSE COVID-19 Assessment and testing pathway in a Healthcare setting other than a receiving hospital (HPSC.IE)

- Total of 391 patients - 2 different teams
- Clinical notes reviewed for every patient included in the audit
- Searching terms used: "covid, cough, fever, cocoon, result"
- Data from March 17<sup>th</sup> to Nov 16<sup>th</sup> collected on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

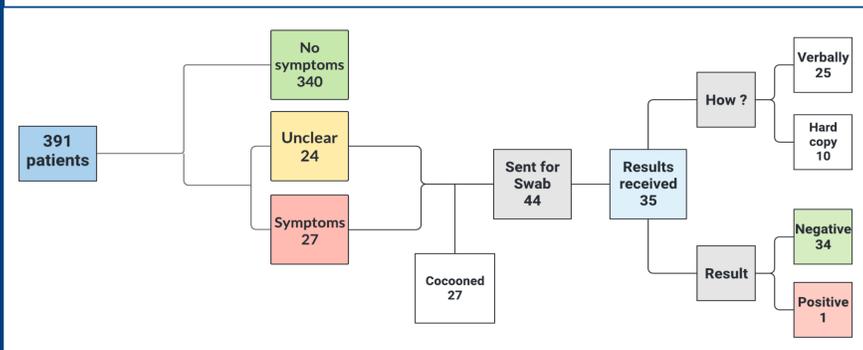
Parameters evaluated:

1. Were there any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19?
2. If yes, were patients referred for PCR swab?
3. Were they advised to cocoon?
4. Were we informed of the result? If yes, how?
5. Was the result documented?
6. Was it positive or negative?

## Results

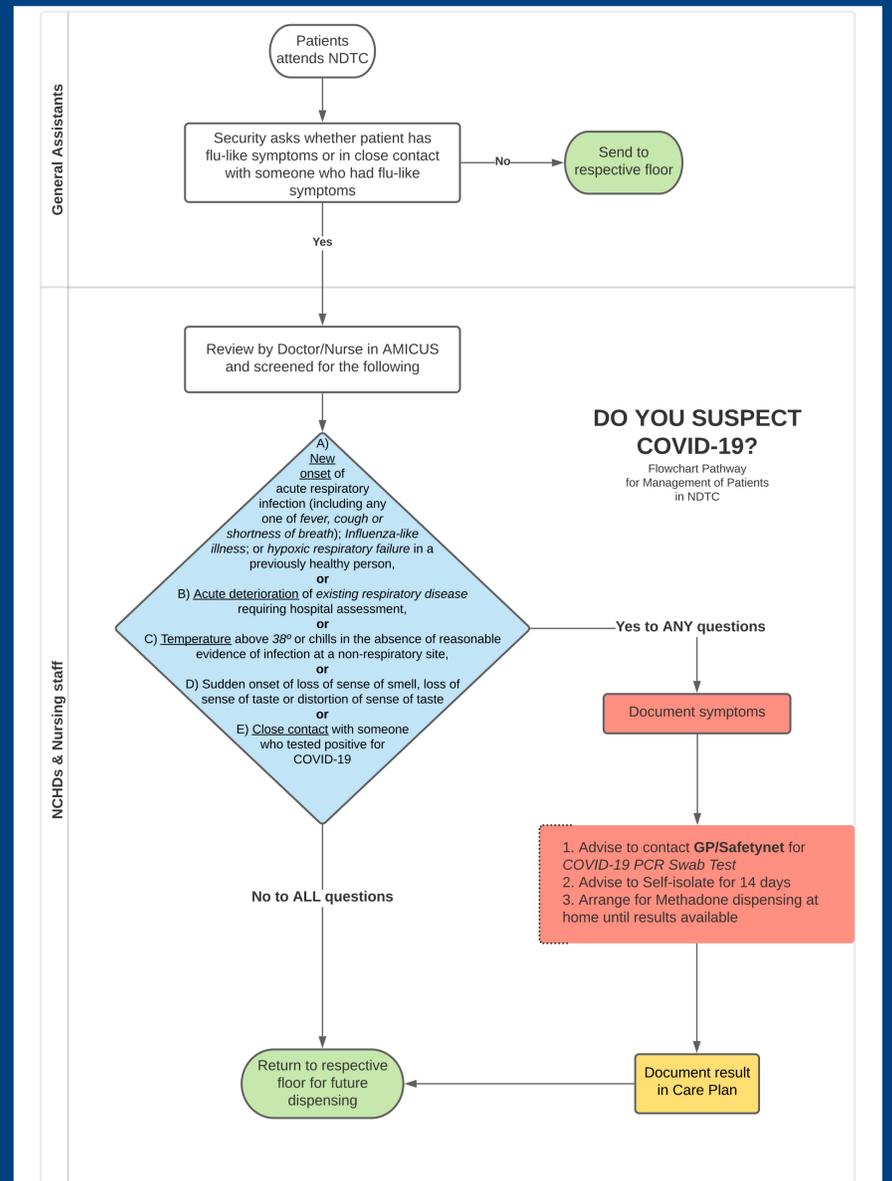
Key findings:

- 93% of the patients who met criteria for testing were referred for swab
- Of those tested, 61% self-isolated
- 80% of the test results were received
- Rarely (28%) was a hard copy available



## Interventions

1. **Flowchart** on the management of suspected COVID-19 patients at NDTC designed, sent by e-mail to all Registrars and CNMs and copies distributed in doctor's offices and nurses station
2. **Safety Net** contacted with a view to simplify process of referral for PCR test. Two new options created which ensure referral is received by Safety net and results obtained by our services, once available.
3. **Posters** on how to wear a face mask correctly distributed in waiting areas

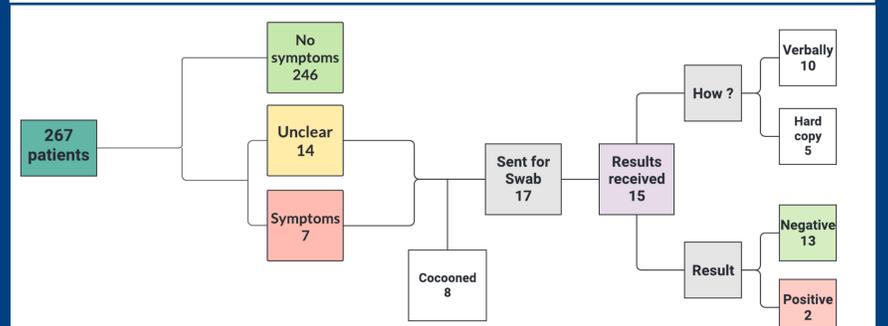


## Re-Audit - 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2021

- 267 patients included, same methodology used

Key findings:

- All the patients who met criteria for testing were referred for PCR swab
- Of those tested, 47% self-isolated
- 88% of the test results were received
- In one of third of the cases, a hard copy of the result was received



## Conclusions

Following the interventions outlined, there was an improvement in referring patients with COVID-19 symptoms for testing as well as receiving the results of the previous.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> HPSC (Health Protection Surveillance Centre)
- <sup>2</sup> World Health Organization: WHO

## Ethical considerations

Consent to carry out the audit given by Mr Bill Ebbitt, NDTC General Manager.