

27 May 2020

Dear Care Home Manager

Firstly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the close working relationships our team has enjoyed with Care Homes over the past number of years and especially during the current challenging time.

The Southern Trust Community Rapid Response Team wishes to continue to provide you with support when needed for residents in your care homes (nursing or residential) if they become unwell.

At present, the Southern Trust 'Acute Care at Home' (AC@H) Service offers acute hospital level care to older people either in their own home or in a nursing/residential home. AC@H is a dedicated Consultant Geriatrician led multidisciplinary team, whose primary focus is on maintaining older people safely at home in the event of an acute illness or unexpected deterioration in health.

The service provides triage, assessment, diagnosis and treatment as an alternative to inpatient care specifically to those at risk of or potentially requiring admission to hospital i.e. in the absence of such care, they would otherwise require inpatient treatment.

In addition to the usual AC@H service during this period, if you have residents who have been determined to be COVID positive yet have no symptoms, if you would find it helpful, we can offer you support to monitor these residents, who are not at the point of referral to Acute Care at Home.

If you would like to avail of this service we will:

- Work with you to meet your needs through flexibly providing virtual medical oversight of these residents through medical students who will either;
  - visit your home and complete the observations using the attached Restore 2 Tool (<https://westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/restore2>) or
  - if it is more acceptable, you can complete this tool yourself. The students will link with your nursing staff to gain an overview and record this information.

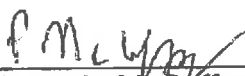
This information will be monitored by AC@H medical staff thereafter and escalated to the patients GP for referral to AC@H if this is deemed appropriate. We will also have access to ED attendances and admissions to hospital from Care Homes and we will provide follow-up, to see if further support from AC@H or other services would be beneficial or required.

We hope that this service can provide some reassurance to your staff, residents and families at this challenging time.

If you require any advice, please contact the Community Rapid Response Advice line on 02837563591 or

If you would like any further information, please contact Yvonne Murphy, Manager of Acute Care at Home and Older Peoples Ambulatory Services, on Email: [Yvonne.murphy@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Yvonne.murphy@southerntrust.hscni.net) or Tel: 07834 929067.

Yours Sincerely,



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Dr Patricia McCaffrey  
Lead Consultant Geriatrician  
Acute Care at Home Service  
Southern Health and Social Care Trust.



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Brian Beattie  
Acting Director Older People and Primary Care  
Southern Health and Social Care Trust