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|  | CHCP CIC New logo FINAL |
|  | York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust RGB BLUE |

\*System partner logos to be added as guidance shared with each organisation

**Viral Gastroenteritis**

**Systems Partners Guidance**

Version Control

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| Version | Release date |
| 9.1 | 09/04/2018 |
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| **Guideline**  | Effective Discharge of patients from wards/ inpatient areas which have had an outbreak of Viral Gastroenteritis (Including Norovirus) |
| **Version Control** | Version 0.9 |
| **System Partners** | Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust Humber Teaching Foundation NHS TrustCity Health Care Partnership CICYorkshire Ambulance Service NHS TrustEast Riding of Yorkshire CouncilHull City CouncilNHS East Riding of Yorkshire CCGNHS Hull CCGNHS Vale of York CCG NHS Scarborough & Ryedale CCG Public Health EnglandThames Ambulance Service LimitedYormed Ambulance Service York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust City of York Council  |
| **Background** | It has been recognised that there is no consistent approach between system partners on the discharge of patients that have been exposed to Viral Gastroenteritis (including Norovirus) within a ward/inpatient area. This document is a guideline in order for the system to adopt an agreed position on discharge of these patients. |
| **Viral Gastroenteritis (including Norovirus) description** |  **Viral Gastroenteritis (including Norovirus)** This is a viral infection which causes diarrhoea and vomiting. It affects semi closed communities such as hospitals. Immunity is short-lived and therefore a high proportion of those exposed to infection develop symptoms. In healthy people these are relatively short-lived and mild. Transmission is by person-to-person infection, contaminated surfaces and contaminated food and drink. |
| **Principles of agreement** | For a patient that is medically fit for discharge, it is recommended that the following principles should be adopted by all system partners and Acute trusts:* Any patient on a ward/inpatient area affected by Viral Gastroenteritis (including Norovirus) going to their own home without additional services can be discharged as soon as they are thought to be medically fit even if they are still symptomatic.
* Patients who are on a ward/inpatient area where there are closed bays due to infection but who are not in a closed bay can be discharged to their own home, intermediate care, community/ mental health inpatient service or to a nursing or residential home.
* Patients in closed bays/inpatient area, who are not symptomatic because they have resolving symptoms (i.e.48hrs symptom free), can be discharged to their own home either with or without services, intermediate care, community/ mental health inpatient service or to a nursing or residential home.
* Patients in closed bays/inpatient area who have not been symptomatic and are due to be discharged to a nursing or residential home should be assessed on an individual patient basis\*. In general, discharge should not occur until the bay has been reopened, however discussion can be held with the receiving service to inform that the patient has been exposed to Viral Gastroenteritis (including Norovirus) and that on discharge; it is essential that the patient is barrier nursed and closely monitored for 48 hours after discharge.
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| **Staff undertaking assessments on closed wards****(Allied Healthcare Professionals and Social Care Staff )** | In principle as long as appropriate precautions are taken the assessment for discharge process should continue. * Patients who are on a ward/inpatient area where there are closed bays but who are not in a closed bay. Staff can continue to assess the patient and the patient can continue to attend other areas for rehabilitation/ investigation.
* Patients in closed bays/inpatient area, who are not symptomatic because they have resolving symptoms (i.e.48hrs symptom free). If facilities allow these patients can be taken to a non-affected area of the ward/inpatient area and staff can continue to assess the patient.
* Patients in closed bays/inpatient area who have not been symptomatic should be assessed on an individual patient basis.
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| **Effective from** | 1st April 2018  |
| **Date** | 9th February 2018 |
| **Review Date** | 31st March 2019 |
| **Contact for this guidance**  | Jo Raper jo.raper@nhs.net |

**\*Assessment on an Individual Patient Basis**

This assessment should be undertaken in conjunction with the Infection Prevention & Control team, receiving service and Public Health England. This is to ensure the receiving service is able to prevent the spread of infection. The default will remain not to discharge unless safe discharge arrangements can clearly be described and this will not be on every occasion.

**Closed Care Homes /Acute, / Community, Mental Health inpatient areas**

Where a care home/ inpatient area has been closed due to infection since the patient’s admission the patient should not be discharged back to the area until it is reopened. **Patient Discharge for a ward affected by Viral Gastroenteritis (including Norovirus)**

Is the patient medically fit to be discharged, not symptomatic, but **has** been in a closed bay?

**Patient on ward**/**inpatient area affected by Viral Gastroenteritis ready for discharge**

Is the patient medically fit to be discharged home **without** need for social services?

Is the patient medically fit to be discharged, but has **not** been in a closed bay?

Patient can be discharged to intermediate care, time to think beds or to a nursing or residential home.

**Y**

**N**

**N**

Carry out social care assessment on ward/inpatient area

Discharge Home

**Y**

Is the patient medically fit to be discharged, has been symptomatic but has been symptom free 48hrs, but **has** been in a closed bay

Carry out assessment on ward/inpatient area Patient can be moved to a side room to help facilitate

**Y**

The receiving service (including patient transport service) should be informed that the patient has had Viral Gastroenteritis and is 48hrs symptom free

Patients in closed bays who have not been symptomatic and are due to be discharged to a nursing or residential home should be assessed on an individual patient basis\*.

In general, discharge should not occur until the bay/inpatient area has been reopened, however discussion can be held with the receiving service (including the patient transport service) to inform them that the patient has been exposed to Viral Gastroenteritis and that on discharge; it is essential that the patient is barrier nursed and closely monitored for 48 hours after discharge.

**Or**

**NB Please ensure you inform the patient transfer service if the patient is potentially infectious**