

The Use of Mobile Imaging for Post-COVID-19 Care

The typical symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, difficulty breathing and shortness of breath.¹ Older adults and people who have underlying medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19. While the following tests cannot be used to diagnose COVID-19, they can be very useful in connection with post-COVID-19 care:

- **Chest X-Ray** – Determine normal vs. abnormal; baseline vs. disease management.
- **Chest/Lung Ultrasound** – Evaluate for conditions such as pleural effusions, pneumonia and pneumothorax.
- **Inferior Vena Cava (IVC) Ultrasound** – Determine the size of the IVC and evaluate for respiratory changes to monitor progress of disease. (e.g. pneumonia and elevated right heart pressures.)
- **Echocardiogram** – In addition to respiratory disease, COVID-19 patients can develop cardiovascular conditions.² An echocardiogram can evaluate heart chamber size, evaluate left ventricular systolic wall motion and provide an ejection fraction. An echocardiogram can also evaluate for left ventricular diastolic dysfunction.

Hospitals are seeing the demand for emergency healthcare services quickly surpass their capacity. Vital imaging services are being delayed or canceled due to lack of resources or a fear of infection.³ These challenges could be mitigated with the help of a mobile imaging services provider that can fill the gaps and bring imaging and emergency diagnostic services to the community.

Best efforts should be made to image patients with infectious disease in their quarantined space. **Portable bedside X-Ray and Ultrasound services can be very helpful in this regard.**

Using a mobile service in an Assisted Living Facility (ALF) or in a patient's private residence, can help alleviate overcrowding in hospital and urgent care settings, while at the same time keeping an infected person from entering those facilities.

For the safety of our employees, customers and the patients we serve, TridentCare personnel follow CDC, state and local health department guidance for healthcare professionals, and in particular guidance around the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

****NOTE: Patients with any respiratory symptom must be equipped with appropriate PPE. Without it, TridentCare may not be able to provide services.***

Please contact us with any questions at Info.AtHome@tridentcare.com.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. Last accessed 4/6/2020.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>. Last accessed 4/7/2020.
3. Mossa-Basha, Mahmud, MD, Meltzer, Carolyn C., MD, Kim, Danny C., MD, Tuite, Michael J., MD, Kolli, K. Pallav, MD, Soo Tan, Bien, MD. Radiology Department Preparedness for COVID-19: Radiology Scientific Expert Panel. <https://pubs.rsna.org/doi/10.1148/radiol.2020200988>. Last accessed 4/6/2020.