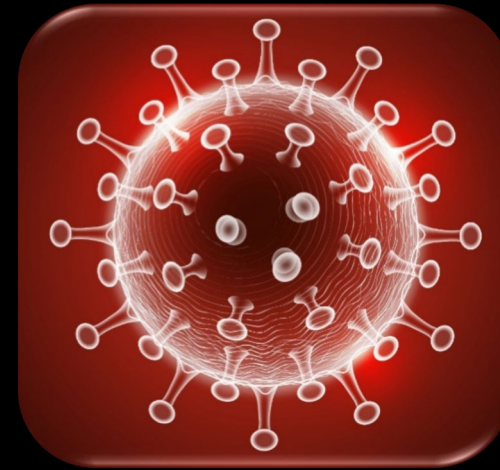


Primary Care COVID Pathway

Dr. Rick Ward, Medical Director, Primary Care, AHS
April 20, 2020



Disclosures

- Shire
- Pfizer
- Merck
- BI
- AZ
- Janssen
- Takeda
- Servier
- BMS

THE PATHWAY

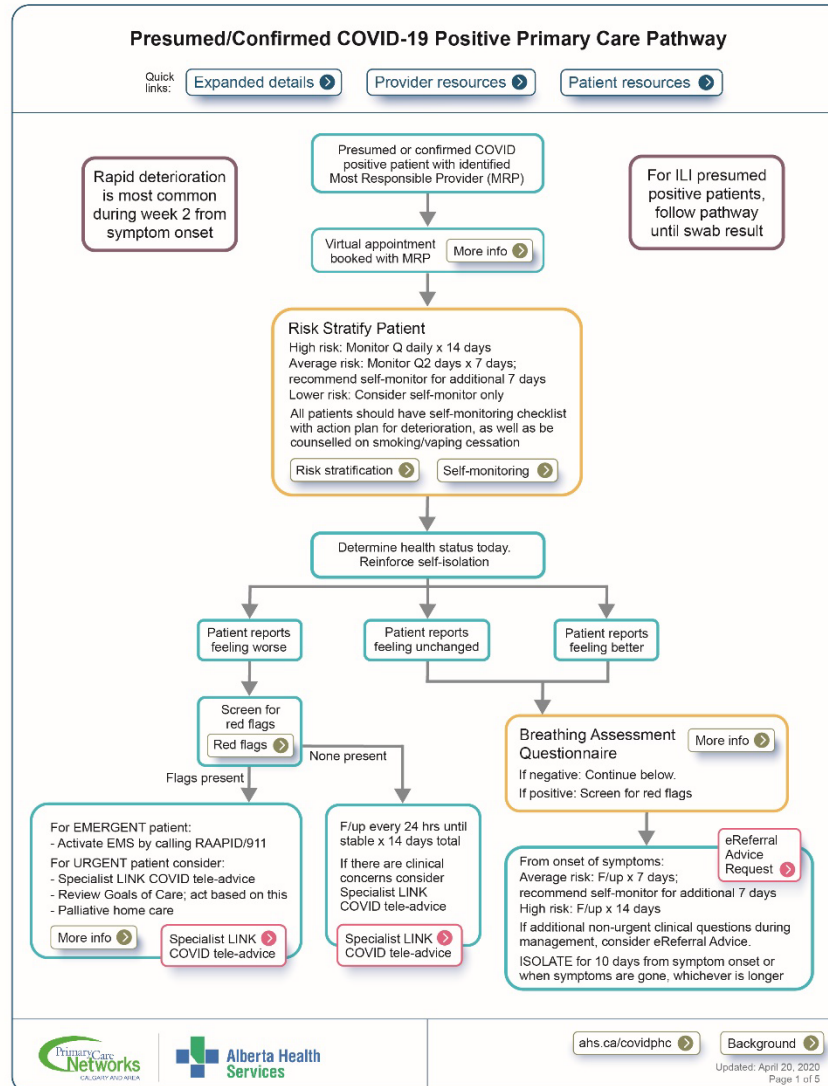
UPTAKE



- 1, 191 pathway downloads from Specialist LINK website since April 6
- 103 calls to Specialist Link COVID tele-advice line since Apr 7
- Provincial pathway adoption
- Interest in pathways from various provinces

THE PATHWAY

CHANGES



Themes

- Risk categories
- Smoking/vaping risk
- Assessing breathlessness

THE PATHWAY

RISK STRATIFICATION



High Risk	Average Risk	Lower Risk
Patients stepping down from tertiary care (hospital, Complex Care Hub)	Otherwise healthy children	Otherwise healthy
Patients lacking ' <i>safety net</i> '	Pregnant patients	No comorbidities
Patients with symptom deterioration	Asymptomatic swab positive patients	Appropriate safety network
Any age with medical comorbidities	40-60 years old	Younger age (<40 yrs)
Age > 60 lacking medical comorbidities		
Current smoking or vaping use		

*Highlighted factors are the changes

THE PATHWAY

SMOKING CESSATION



- Evidence is supporting that cessation of smoking/vaping, even temporarily, may reduce susceptibility to and severity of COVID-19

([AHS, Primer-smoking and vaping COVID 19](#))



THE PATHWAY

SMOKING CESSATION



5 As approach

During a therapeutic intervention, patients are:

- **Asked** about their use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, other tobacco products (type, amount, years of use).
- **Advised** that stopping use has immediate benefits for their lung and heart health, including prevention against and recovery from respiratory infections.
- **Assessed** for interest in stopping use and receiving support to quit.
- **Assisted** to stop or reduce through pharmacotherapy and behavioural counselling.
- **Arrange** additional onsite support and/or more intensive intervention.

Canadian Action Network-Advancement Dissemination Adoption Practice-informed Tobacco Treatment. (CAN-ADAPTT). Canadian Smoking Cessation Clinical Practice Guidelines. 2011.

Increase in NRT coverage

- For adults on Adult health, Income Support, Learner Support, and AISH:
 - Lifetime maximum limit for all over the counter smoking cessation products, has been [temporarily increased](#) to \$1,000 per participant, per lifetime.
- For patients not covered under the above listed programs, temporary enhancement of access is available through AHS. Patients will soon be able to apply online on AlbertaQuits.ca for Blue Cross cards to cover nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).

THE PATHWAY

SMOKING CESSATION



Cessation resources:

Provider

- A **Clinical Support Primer** can be found at <https://healthcareproviders.albertaquits.ca/resources/covid-19>
- Counselling for smoking/vaping cessation done virtually can be billed using code 08.19CW

Patients

- Referrals can be made by fax (1.866.979.3553) to AlbertaQuits Helpline for free, confidential support. Patients may also self refer.
- Patients can be directed to [Albertaquits.ca](https://albertaquits.ca) which offers a free web-based cessation program that provides self-help information, tools, texts and a community forum.

PCNs

- Many PCNs have smoking cessation options

THE PATHWAY

BREATHLESSNESS ASSESSMENT



To Roth or not to Roth?

THE PATHWAY

ADVANCED CARE PLANNING



Stay tuned