

### **The University of Kansas Health System Communication for Post-Acute and Community Partners:**

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. We highly value our working relationship and seek to share information with you regarding our current practices at The University of Kansas Health System.

We have implemented the following guidelines to determine when a patient who was previously considered “COVID-19 positive” can have isolation discontinued and be defined as “COVID-19 recovered.” This is based on available data and will be updated as needed.

Currently, there is no evidence a subsequent negative test, in a patient who was previously positive, determines their infectious status. We do not plan to routinely perform this test. We do hope the above protocol, combined with information from your regulatory organizations, will guide decision-making around this patient population and allow for the acceptance of patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

### **The University of Kansas Health System Protocol**

COVID-19 patients with positive laboratory testing are considered recovered and isolation precautions can be discontinued if the following criteria are met:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
- At least 14 days have passed since first positive diagnostic test.

Patients with high suspicion of having COVID-19 without confirmatory laboratory testing are considered recovered and can be removed from isolation when the following criteria are met:

- At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
- At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Patients who are ready for discharge to your level of care will greatly benefit from services you can provide. It is our hope that you will continue to admit patients based on your standard criteria. For patients meeting these criteria who remain within the 14-day window, we will provide documentation on the timeline of their care. This will allow you to discontinue their isolation per these guidelines and hopefully limit the duration of personal protective equipment usage.

Patients will be categorized as follows:

- **Category 1: Patients with no clinical concern for COVID-19** – Acceptable for transfer to congregate facility for discharge (no change in standard process).
- **Category 2: Patients investigated for possible COVID-19, but negative testing** – Acceptable for transfer to congregate facility for discharge (no change in standard process).
- **Category 3: Patients under investigation for COVID-19, but test results pending** – Will NOT be transferred to congregate facility until test results completed.
- **Category 4: Patients positive for COVID-19 testing** – Acceptable for transfer to congregate facility when patient has been afebrile for 72 hours or clinically stable for discharge, whichever is longer.

We appreciate your partnership. It is critical we work together as a community and we are thankful for your ongoing commitment to patient care.

Please continue to ask questions and to share updated protocols with our teams.

Sincerely,



Chis Ruder, MS, RN, NEA-BC  
Chief Operating Officer  
Kansas City Division



David Wild, MD, MBA  
Vice President, Performance Improvement  
Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology