

Triage, Admission, and Transfer of Zinc/COVID Patients

- Guidance for who will be admitted/transferred to Zinc:
 - Patients for whom COVID is confirmed or have symptoms + increased risk (i.e., primary admission reason is symptoms suggestive of Covid infection).
 - Symptoms:
 - Cough, shortness of breath, hypoxia, fever, chills, myalgias, headache, pharyngitis, new anosmia or dysgeusia, or delirium
 - Patients who have COVID and are transferred out of the ICU or from the Family Medicine service
 - Patients who are admitted by another service for asymptomatic COVID but develop symptoms
 - Patients with confirmed or suspected COVID who would otherwise be on an IM resident team may be admitted to/transferred to a Zinc team as determined by the Admission and Transfer Triage depending on team censuses and prioritizing symptomatic COVID/PUI patients being on Zinc.
- Guidance who will be admitted to other services:
 - Patients with another primary reason for admission (not symptomatic/high risk for COVID as the reason for admission) will be admitted by the appropriate service (or maintained on the current service if already admitted), with management guidance from Zinc if needed (via TigerConnect role "COVID-19 IM Hospitalist Admit/Transfer On Call").
 - For example:
 - Cardiology will admit patients with CHF
 - Trauma will admit patients with trauma as the reason for admission
 - Pregnant patients will be admitted to the OB COVID service
 - If a patient tests positive for COVID during the course of their admission and remains asymptomatic, they will stay on the same primary service. **If the attending on that service is unable to care for a patient with COVID then transfer may be arranged.**
 - Pregnant patients with COVID will be admitted by the OB COVID service
- The IM Hospitalist Admission & Transfer Triage attending has the final say for Zinc admissions and transfers, and disagreements should be immediately escalated to the Clinical Affairs - On Call physician (available on Amion).

Each oncoming COVID Admission & Transfer Triage hospitalist will speak with their offgoing counterpart about any patients who are awaiting triage, and potential changes to the triage process and medicine teams (composition, caps, etc).

Patients being assigned to Zinc Teams:

- New admissions overnight will be distributed by the Overnight Admission & Transfer Triage staff in the morning by 7AM, aiming for an even workload between teams with professional discretion (factoring in issues such as staffing, sustainability, etc).
 - Even numbered Zinc teams will stay for admissions until 7 on even numbered days and the odd number teams will stay late for admissions on odd numbered days. Switches may be made based on individuals schedule needs.

- Triage to Zinc during the daytime: the Admission & Transfer Triage clinician will aim for an even census distribution across teams and will triage patients to active Zinc teams' based on:
 - The number of patients and providers on the accepting Zinc team that day (aiming to under-admit to those that are understaffed)
 - Professional discretion including factors related to work sustainability
- The COVID Admission & Transfer Triage IM hospitalist will review the patient's chart after request for admission from the ED or ICU. If there is uncertainty of the appropriateness of the patient for Zinc, the Triage physician will discuss with the referring provider.
- If deemed appropriate for Zinc, the COVID Admission & Transfer Triage clinician will enter a bed request with the assigned Zinc attending's name and forward the medicine consult request sent via Tiger Text to them.
- The Zinc Hospitalist attending will either perform the admission on their own or staff the admission with the resident depending on available resources as assigned by the triage hospitalist.
- The triage attending may assign a Gray IM Resident or the overnight/nighttime team to complete the admission (without entering the room), if available. The residents involved will staff with the assigned Zinc Hospitalist attending.
- If a resident is unavailable, the assigned Zinc attending will complete the admission.
- From 1900-0700, the nocturnist may either staff or complete the admission.

Patients being transferred off of Zinc teams

- Transfers off of Zinc teams can occur between 11AM-7PM (although can come off isolation at any time as per Zinc/COVID de-escalation policy) and triaged to specific non-Zinc teams.
- Patients whose COVID test results return negative will only be transferred to a non-Zinc/COVID team during the day.
- Zinc clinicians will interview and examine the patient, write a brief daily progress note, communicate with nursing about changes in isolation precautions, and provide a TigerText and/or verbal handoff to the accepting team if the patient is not ready for discharge.
- Patients who have asymptomatic COVID and are admitted to a Zinc team should be evaluated for transfer to a non-Zinc team, including the service where they would have otherwise been admitted if they did not have COVID.
- Current processes for transfer off Zinc teams are:
 - Zinc surge team attending/APP sends TigerText to COVID Admission & Transfer Triage hospitalist with patient name, MRN, negative test result, and a one liner/brief indication for the patient needs continued hospitalization.
 - The COVID Admission & Transfer Triage hospitalist reviews the patient chart and decides what team the patient should go to (e.g., medicine, family medicine, another service that is planning to address their primary medical or surgical problem).
 - COVID Admission & Transfer Triage hospitalist will send a TigerText to Zinc team and assigned accepting team attending, APP, and resident notifying them of transfer.
 - Zinc team and accepting team will coordinate handoff time/method.

- The accepting team or the COVID Admission & Transfer Triage hospitalist will write the transfer order and sign out to cross cover.
- There may be an agreement to alter this workflow based on need, and upon all parties concurring.

There will not be transfers off Zinc teams after 7PM.