



## Referral Criteria to the Acute Children's Outreach Nursing Service during Covid -19 Autumn/Winter

### Service Aims:

- To provide ongoing assessment and support of patients who do not need to be admitted or may be discharged early following an acute illness. There will be no home visits during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic but telephone assessment and 'AccuRx' video consultation will be provided.

### Inclusion Criteria:

- ALL children 0-16yrs old who present to CED irrespective of geographical area or GP
- Have a Defined acute illness (see below)
- Reviewed & agreed as suitable by Dr ST4 or *above* /ANP/Consultant
- Safe & stable condition with discharge PEWS score = 0-1
- Have parents / carers who agree, and are confident and able to safely manage the child at home between nurse contact phone calls. There will currently be no home visits made
- Children who would otherwise been admitted to SSU for Nursing observation & management OR would probably re-attend
- Children who are currently SSU/ HDU /Level 9 patients and are safe to discharged home early but would benefit from additional outreach nurse follow up and telephone/video assessment and support

### Defined Illnesses

Viral induced wheeze, bronchiolitis, asthma, mild to moderate croup

- Viral Gastroenteritis / Mild Dehydration
- Viral Illness +/- exanthem
- Tonsillitis, Herpes/Stomatitis with poor oral intake
- Lymphadenitis
- Peri-orbital cellulitis but not those requiring IV abx
- Cellulitis
- Crying baby (non organic cause or feeding problem)
- Current SSU / HDU/ Level 9 patients with any of the above defined illnesses who can be discharged early and would benefit from ongoing telephone /video assessment and support. (eg Children who have been slow to stretch to 4hrly salbutamol inhalers and required SSU or withdrawal of O2 Tx & parental concern)
- Additional illnesses as agreed suitable by CED Consultant / CoW & ACORNS RN

### Exclusion Criteria

- Children requiring face to face nurse assessment at home or in hospital
- Children who have been advised to remain in hospital for Infection Control purposes incl testing, awaiting results etc.
- Professional concerns about ability of parental care, monitoring & management at home
- New Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns
- Parent wishing to leave CED against best medical advice or not waiting to be seen & discharged.



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### How to refer to ACORNS:

- Complete 'CED Referral to ACORNS' Pathway and ACORNS sticky referral label (similar size to Do It sticker). Please also add small ACORNS logo sticker to front of notes to help prevent lost referrals.
- Phone **ACORNS office on ext 62430** or come to office in hours. See CED wipe board for ACORNS nurse on duty and contact mobile number.
- **CED patients only:** Outside ACORNS working hours leave fully completed 'CED Referral to ACORNS' pathway and completed CED documentation in 'ACORNS' tray in back office of CED. We will collect 8am next day.
- **Ward/ HDU patients** must only be direct referrals to ACORNS nurses in working hours.
- On CED Symphony screen, make 'Referral to Speciality' under ACORNS and use discharge outcome of 'Acute Children's Outreach Nursing team' (last item on discharge outcome list)

### Prior to Discharge from CED:

- Check contact names, address and tel no. of parent or carer that child will be with.
- Complete all CED treatments, observations and documentation.
- CED Symphony discharge outcome: Record as ACORNS at bottom of outcome of drop down list
- Provide parents with
  - ACORNS info leaflet and advise there will be NO HOME VISITS
  - Verbal advice and written Safety net information about their child's illness
  - Any necessary prescription / all prescribed medicines
- Provide ACORNS with
  - Completed 'CED Referral to ACORNS' or 'Inpatient Referral to ACORNS' pathway signed off by referring senior clinician - Dr ST4 or *above* /ANP/Consultant
  - Original PEWS Chart and CED notes/ or ward discharge letter. (CED & ACORNS notes will be stored in ACORNS office. CED Band 6 Nurse in Charge has swipe access)

### On Discharge:

1. Should a child require further review after video consultation, they will be asked to attend CED where appropriate PPE can be used. The ACORNS nurse will review the child and either send home for ongoing ACORNS follow up or refer to the Paediatric team in CED for further assessment and decision making.
2. Out of hours the Band 6 /7 CED shift leader will have access to the ACORNS nursing notes in the locked filing cabinet in ACORNS office. Key is in the ACORN holder on top of filing cabinet.

ACORNS Hours	
Monday – Friday	8am to 8pm
Weekends	8am to 6pm
Bank Holidays	8am to 6pm