

## AMU Virtual Ward

### Pathway for New Starters

Introduce yourself (e.g. "Hello my name is *Name*, I'm a *Job Title* calling from Royal Berkshire Hospital AMU Virtual Ward")

#### 1. TRAJECTORY QUESTIONS:

How are you feeling today? Are you feeling **better or worse** than yesterday? Are you more breathless than you were yesterday?

These questions are to get an idea of trajectory: either the same, worse or improving. If worsening then please discuss with senior clinician

#### 2. RESTING SATS:

What are your resting oxygen saturations today?

- If **>94%**, proceed to Q3.
- If **94% or less**, offer to **call 999** and **return to ED for assessment**.

Some patients with sats of 94% at rest may go on to desaturate more, so these patients should come into hospital for oxygen therapy. These patients should not do the walking test.

#### 3. WALKING TEST:

Please could you walk 30 metres/40 steps and tell me what your oxygen saturations and heart rate are after that?

- If saturations drop by **more than 5%** (e.g. from 97% to 91%), advise patient to **return to ED for same day assessment**, calling 999 if necessary.

Some patients with a 'positive' walking test, will begin to desaturate at rest so these patients should come into hospital for monitoring and may receive oxygen therapy.

4. If resting sats are >94% and walking test sats drop by 5% or less, reassure and arrange to call again tomorrow/discharge if on Day 5 and saturations are acceptable.

- **Do not discharge** if saturations are borderline; **discuss with Dr if in any doubt**.

5 days is a guideline. Do not discharge a patient at less than 5 days without discussing with senior.

5. **Safety net** – If you become more short of breath, or think your symptoms are worsening please seek medical help via 111 or 999.

**If you have any doubt/clinical suspicion of a deteriorating patient, discuss with Doctor covering the AMU Virtual Ward**

**The AMU Virtual Ward can call 999 for an ambulance for the patient. For the first 5 calls, put the call on to speaker phone so a senior can supervise. Tell the operator 'I'm phoning from the AMU Virtual Ward at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. My name is X. We need an ambulance to please bring a patient back to hospital with COVID. The patient has low oxygen saturations and we would like to bring the patient for reassessment and probable admission.**

#### Reference:

Covid-19: a remote assessment in primary care

BMJ 2020; 368 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m1182> (Published 25 March 2020) Cite this as: BMJ 2020;368:m1182