

Guidance for Testing Patients with Persistent or Chronic Respiratory Conditions for COVID-19

Cancer patients seen at various locations within the SCCA system with chronic respiratory conditions or persistent respiratory symptoms may be identified through a variety of the pre-screening and/or monitoring workstreams that have been developed to identify patients for COVID-19 and or respiratory virus testing. This guidance serves to assure these patients are not tested too frequently, but that they are also assessed for new or progressive symptoms prior to repeat visits.

For those patients who have been screened and have had a baseline negative test, repeat testing is not always necessary unless it has been 4 weeks since last negative test was performed.

Negative test \leq 4 weeks from an upcoming visit

- 1) Pre-appointment reminder email communication from Care Team TC to provider(s) 72 hours prior to visit:

Subject line: "Action Required – 72 hour review of appointments"

Review your patient list for the next 72 hours below:

<insert list of patient names and U#s>

Please identify which patients must be seen in clinic and which are more appropriate for telemedicine visits. In making this decision, assume that any of these patients may be experiencing respiratory symptoms during their upcoming in-person visit.

- 2) Pre-appointment screening phone call (2 days prior to visit): RN assesses whether patient's symptoms are stable or have worsened relative to baseline when prior (negative) test performed. If it is not possible to assess stability of symptoms, proceed as if the patient has worsening symptoms (e.g. plan to repeat test). Follow these steps based on symptom stability:

- A. Stable symptoms: If patient has a scheduled appointment and the patient's symptoms are stable since their baseline negative test, repeat COVID-19 testing is not indicated

- B. Worsening symptoms: If patient has a scheduled appointment and patient's symptoms have worsened, **repeat COVID-19 testing** should be performed prior to visit if at all possible. Consider sending extended respiratory virus panel testing in addition to COVID-19 testing. Options for testing:
 - 1) Arrange for pre-appointment drive through testing

OR

 - 2) IF unable to arrange pre-appointment drive through testing:
 - a. If non-essential visit → schedule telehealth visit or delay visit (*if appropriate)
 - b. If essential in-person visit, arrange for patient to be tested at clinic triage. The patient (and their caregiver) should be reminded to wear a cloth mask/face-covering pre-arrival (if possible), masked with a surgical mask on arrival, and seen in droplet/contact precautions (as per Infection prevention policies)

Negative test > 4 weeks from an upcoming visit

- 1) Pre-appointment reminder email communication from Care Team TC to provider(s) 72 hours prior to visit:

Subject line: "Action Required – 72 hour review of appointments"

Review your patient list for the next 72 hours below:

<insert list of patient names and U#s>

Please identify which patients must be seen in clinic and which are more appropriate for telemedicine visits. In making this decision, assume that any of these patients may be experiencing respiratory symptoms during their upcoming in-person visit.

- 1) All patients whose last negative test was > 4 weeks prior to visit should have repeat testing performed prior to their visit if patient remains symptomatic. Options for testing:
 - I. Arrange for pre-appointment drive through testing

OR
 - II. IF unable to arrange pre-appointment drive through testing:
 - a. If non-essential visit → schedule telehealth visit or delay visit (*if appropriate)
 - b. If essential in-person visit, arrange for patient to be tested at SLU triage center. The patient (and their caregiver) should be reminded to wear a cloth mask/face-covering pre-arrival (if possible), masked with a surgical mask on arrival, and seen in droplet/contact precautions (as per Infection prevention policies) and table below.

Disease and Clinical Presentation	Precautions	Criteria to discontinue precautions
COVID-19 Negative: Respiratory symptoms – unknown cause (possible infectious cause)	Droplet precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic for three consecutive days (refer to Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions Policy)
COVID-19 Negative: Stable Respiratory symptoms – known non-infectious cause (medication side-effect, known side-effect of	Standard precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a