

MANAGEMENT OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED COVID-19

A HOSPITALIZATION IN THE EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC UNIT IS REQUESTED BY THE REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

THE REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER **MUST** INQUIRE WHETHER THE PATIENT IS POSITIVE FOR:

- **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CRITERIA:** Having had face-to-face contact with a COVID-19 patient (or with a person who had contacts with a COVID-19 patient) within 1 mt and for >15 minutes in the last 14 days.
- **OR**
- **CLINICAL CRITERIA:** respiratory symptoms, fever > 37.5°, cough, shortness of breath.

NEGATIVE CRITERIA

ASSESSMENT UNRELIABLE OR NOT FEASIBLE: e.g. uncooperative patient and/or lack of information

POSITIVE CRITERIA

PATIENT ADMITTED IN THE FILTER ZONE, OUTSIDE THE WARD

- Dedicated area in which the patient undergoes the clinical/epidemiological screening
- The patient needs to wear a **surgical mask**. The Health-care workers must use personal protective equipment (PPE, i.e., medical mask, eye protection, gloves, and gown)
- Medical team (psychiatrist + infectious disease physicians) proceeds with diagnostic procedures and provide first-aid treatment

WHILE IN THE DEDICATED ROOM, INSIDE THE FILTER ZONE

- Physicians evaluate the COVID-19 positivity risk and perform the **NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMENS' COLLECTION**
- The patient must enter the room alone, unless he suffers from a severe disability or is under legal guardianship (in this case, the accompanying person needs to wear a surgical mask)

RELOCATION TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE/COVID UNIT

Full psychiatric assistance will be guaranteed during patient's stay in this unit

Hospital Health Direction

- Contact person:
- Phone number:

THE SUSPECTED PATIENT **MUST STAY WITHIN THE FILTER ZONE** UNTIL THE RESPONSE TO THE NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMENS' COLLECTION IS OBTAINED. DURING THIS QUARANTINE, THE MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS WILL MANAGE THE **PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMATOLOGY** OF THE SUSPECTED PATIENT

- **NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMENS' COLLECTION POSITIVITY:** THE PATIENT IS RELOCATED TO THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE WARD. PSYCHIATRISTS WILL PROVIDE FULL ASSISTANCE DURING THIS PHASE
- **NASOPHARYNGEAL SPECIMEN'S COLLECTION NEGATIVITY:** THE PATIENT COULD BE ADMITTED TO THE PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.

WHAT IF WE SUSPECT A COVID-19 POSITIVITY IN A HOSPITALIZED PATIENT?

IF ONE OF THE HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS DEVELOPS:

- Respiratory symptoms
- Fever > 37.5°
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

PROTECTION

- THE PATIENT HAS TO WEAR A **SURGICAL MASK**
- IF POSSIBLE, **ISOLATE** THE PATIENT INSIDE AN ISOLATED ROOM WITH PERSONAL BATHROOM

RELOCATION

- **NOTIFY** THE POTENTIAL COVID-19 POSITIVITY TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND TO THE INFECTIOLOGIST
- ACTIVATE THE PROCEDURES FOR THE **RELOCATION**

WHEN THE RELOCATION IS COMPLETED, THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT MUST PROVIDE A COMPLETE SANIFICATION OF THE ROOM/WARD. MOREOVER, HEALTH-CARE WORKERS WHO WERE IN CONTACT WITH THE PATIENT MUST UNDERGO A PERIOD OF OBSERVATION, IN ORDER TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBLE CONTAGION