**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)

**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

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

IF ONE OF THE HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS DEVELOPS:

- Respiratory symptoms
- Fever > 37.5°C
- 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.