



IICMS Neurophysiology Faculty

Neurophysiology Department Survey – Covid 19

Thank you to everyone who contributed answers to the survey.

Given the nature of the tests we perform we are in close contact with patients for longer than 15 minutes. Some of the suggestions below have been employed by departments to lower the risk to staff and their patients. The suggestions are drawn from many different hospitals and as such may not apply to everyone. Of the hospitals surveyed outpatient clinics have been cancelled and no patients have been given new appointments for now.

Information in this document is guidance only. We endeavour to update the information regularly if advice changes

Here are the links to national and international information:

- Health Protection Surveillance Centre's website has the most up to date information and guidance for healthcare workers on the Coronavirus at www.hpsc.ie
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019



ASET (The Neurodiagnostic society) have released a guidance document for performing EEG, this document will be available as a PDF on the website and google group

Here are some of the strategies being employed by Neurophysiology Departments:

Staff scheduling

- Reduce hours or long days to keep staff separate
- Split shifts with staff working in teams
- When staff work together, try to stay in separate rooms as much as possible and maintain social distancing in the department
- At risk staff asked to work from home or in non-patient facing roles within the department

Procedure for performing a test on a suspected or confirmed covid 19 positive patient

- All requests to be approved by Consultant Neurophysiologist, only urgent inpatient tests being performed, if possible wait for the Covid 19 test result to come back.
- If EEG is urgent, the patient must have been consulted by a Neurologist and then decided if the EEG is necessary and if the EEG will change the patients care.
- Check IP status for covid 19 (negative test)
- PPE guidelines as outlined by your hospital
- Machine covered in surgical protective bags/cling film and cleaned afterwards
- Input available patient details into machine before entering room



- If possible, two physiologists working at the same time to ensure rapid placement of electrodes, reduce overall contact time with the patient
- Use disposable electrodes and measuring tapes

Performing tests on patients not currently suspected of having Covid 19

- Screen patients before the test is performed
- Input available patient details into machine before entering room
- Use disposable electrodes and measuring tapes
- Wear apron, a surgical mask and 2 pairs of gloves
- If possible, 2 physiologists work at the same time to ensure rapid placement of electrodes, reduce overall contact time with the patient
- Patient and any accompanying parent to wear a surgical mask also
- Do not request for patient to perform hyperventilation unless requested by a consultant to answer a clinical question

Performing tests on urgent outpatients in the department

- Screen patients before the test is scheduled
- Remove any stock or unnecessary equipment from the testing room
- Ask patient to wait outside the hospital, ring the patient to come to the department and bring them directly into the testing room
- Use disposable electrodes and measuring tapes
- Wear apron, a surgical mask and 2 pairs of gloves
- If possible, 2 physiologists work at the same time to ensure rapid placement of electrodes, reduce overall contact time with the patient



- Patient and any accompanying parent to wear a surgical mask also
- Do not request for patient to perform hyperventilation unless requested by a consultant to answer a clinical question

Redeployment

- From the survey results no-one working in Neurophysiology have been redeployed
- If you are requested to redeploy the advice of the IICMS is to only operate within the limit of your skills, knowledge, competencies and experience, you should receive appropriate training for any new duties
- Administration tasks such as contact tracing may be preferable, we need to maintain a Neurophysiology service

Communication

- Staff WhatsApp group for updates
- Distribute the phone number for occupational health to each staff member
- Staff meetings can be facilitated through app'a such as zoom
- Follow your institution on social media platforms for updates
- Frequent PPE and hand hygiene refresher courses
- Buddy system for donning and doffing PPE

If we can help in any way or if you have suggestions as to the above, the best way to contact us is through email at neurophysiology.iicms@gmail.com

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