



Memorandum

To: All Elara Caring Team Members
From: Marcy Miller, Chief Nursing Officer
CC: Clinical Operations, Supply management, Procurement, Executive Council, Service Line Presidents, Infectious Disease
Date: 3.11.2020
Re: Coronavirus COVID-19 – new facemask and other PPE guidance

The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving. We are continually engaged to bring you the most updated information as soon as it becomes available. Last night, CMS issued a memo (Ref:QSO-20-17-ALL) expanding the guidance of the types of facemasks that healthcare workers may use in situations involving COVID-19 and other respiratory infections, and issued updated guidance on the use of other PPE items such as gowns .

In Summary: The CDC (the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) have updated their personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations for health care workers involved in the care of patients with known or suspected COVID-19.

- Facemasks vs. respirators (N95s):
 - Facemasks are now an acceptable temporary alternative to the use of respirator masks (N95s) due to the supply chain not being able to meet the N95 demands.
 - During this time, available respirators (N95s) should be prioritized for use only for sputum producing procedures (such as administering breathing/nebulizer treatments and respiratory suctioning).
 - When the supply chain is restored, and respirator masks (N95s) become available, agencies should return to use of the respirator masks (N95s) for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
- Eye protection, medical gowns, and gloves continue to be recommended.
 - If there are shortages of medical gowns, they should be prioritized for aerosol-generating procedures, care activities where splashes and sprays are anticipated, and high-contact

patient care activities (i.e. patients that have uncontrolled coughing).

This is excellent guidance for us in this time of limited supply chain inventory. We are continuing to work with Medline and are pursuing other vendors to assure we have adequate supplies on hand.