## Care of the pregnant patient (beyond 22 weeks) with COVID-19 infection

April 28, 2020

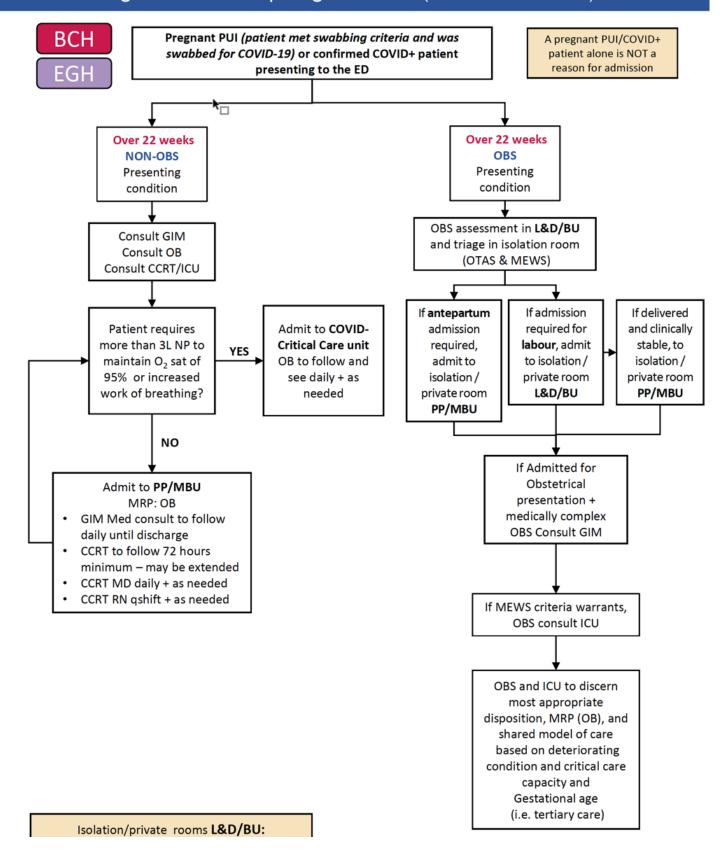
The COVID Clinical Response Committee (CCRC) has been asked to consolidate guidance on the care of the pregnant patient beyond 22 weeks gestational age with COVID-19 infection requiring admission to hospital.

- 1. For patients who are under 22 weeks, admission follows existing flow patterns.
  - a. If the patient is being admitted because they have COVID-19 infection, they are admitted under the hospitalist. Consultation can occur with obstetrics as needed.
- 2. If the pregnant patient with COVID-19 infection is beyond 22 weeks, they are admitted to the obstetrician on call to the obstetrical ward under contact-droplet precautions.
  - a. The obstetrician will see the patient daily. For obstetrical issues (decreased fetal movement, vaginal bleeding or fluid, back pain, contractions, abdominal pain, fetal wellbeing concern), the obstetrician will be called.
- 3. The medicine consult internist will see the patient daily in a shared care model.
  - a. For medical issues (increasing or new oxygen requirement, persistent or unrelenting fever that requires treatment, chest pain, or other medical complaints), the medicine consult internist will be called between 8 am and 4 pm. After 4 pm, the internist on call will be called.
- 4. The CCRT will see all pregnant patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection who require oxygen for a minimum of 72 hours.
  - a. The CCRT physician will round daily.
  - b. The CCRT nurse will round once per shift (twice per day).
  - c. The CCRT will be called and ICU admission considered for any of their usual criteria and:
    - i. increased work of breathing or respiratory rate above 30
    - ii. O2 saturation less than 95% on 3 L nasal prong oxygen

This decision will be revisited as requested.

IMT Report Date - April 29, 2020

## Pregnant Patient Requiring Admission (22 Weeks or Over)



## **Rationale**

- 1. Care of the Pregnant Woman beyond 22 weeks gestational age with COVID-19 infection requires a multidisciplinary approach but remains largely supportive.
- 2. The obstetrical / post-partum nurses will benefit from medical assessment and support from the ICU nurses if the patient is on oxygen.
- 3. CCRT nurses benefit from the skills of the obstetrical / post-partum nurses in fetal surveillance and care of the pregnant patient.
- 4. Patients in advanced state of pregnancy are at increased risk for difficult airway.
- 5. Hypoxemia may occur more rapidly, especially during rapid sequence intubation.
- 6. Lab abnormalities can mimic pre-eclampsia and HELLP syndrome. Keep differential broad.
- 7. Indicated investigations should not be withheld because of the pregnancy.
- 8. Use contact / droplet precautions anyone who is under investigation for or has COVID-19 infection.
- 9. Specific to COVID-19 and pregnancy, data and experience is extremely limited.
  - a. Hypoxia, acidosis, and fever can harm the baby.
  - b. To date, COVID-19 has not been implicated in harm to the fetus or vertical transmission.
  - c. To date, complications in pregnant women with COVID do not seem to be elevated compared to usual population (unlike other viruses).