

## **Re : Process for LMC referral to CDHB / Notification of Covid positive pregnant mama to the CDHB**

We have worked with the Midwifery and Maternity Provider Organisation and Expect Provider Organisation to ensure that all LMC midwives have a COVID Referral template through which to send a referral as both a notification for us and to arrange a semi urgent triage and potential appointment (virtual or face to face) for some women who have tested positive for Covid.

Based on the current understanding of Omicron it appears that those women who are most likely to have pregnancy complications related to Covid are those needing admission to hospital for Covid related symptoms. In addition, those mama with pre-existing co- morbidity or those from certain ethnic groups are more at risk of developing pregnancy complications.

As such we would like you to send a referral form in for all pregnant mama who test positive to Covid. At this stage however WE WILL NOT be arranging an appointment for anyone under 28 weeks gestation who is otherwise well and does not fall into a higher risk group. For those women who have additional risk factors we will be asking you to arrange an ultrasound in the community

The need for this consultation has been agreed by RANZCOG, NZCOM and the MOH. We do understand that for many women they will have no symptoms of significance or have only a mild illness but our obstetric colleagues, in the absence of good enough evidence on the current impact of Omicron variant on pregnancy, want to ensure that the lessons learned from the Delta variant are mitigated for our hapu mama. It is a balance between being able to pick up those that need additional care and overloading what will be stretched system with an uncertain evidence base.

When a mama in your caseload tests positive can you complete the template and send through to - [maternityclinic@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:maternityclinic@cdhb.health.nz).

**MMPO users will find the form in TIAKI, Expect users will find it in Form Letters. Catherine Rietveld will be going through the use of this form at the NZCOM meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

The forms will then be triaged Mon-Friday by the Clinic team. A message will be sent to your email provided on the template you complete with any specific instructions for that woman based on her existing co- morbidities, pregnancy complexity etc. This information will also be noted on HCS in that woman's Maternity tab so that if she is admitted then it can be read by the admitting team.

For those women who on the referral have **no additional risk factors** and are under 28 weeks you will not get any information back as no additional care is recommended at this stage. Please continue to manage people in your caseload as usual and be attentive to any concerns with growth or otherwise. We will note that the mama is positive on our system.

As a further note whilst we do not anticipate large numbers of people being admitted in pregnancy, due to the severity of their COVID symptoms, to the Respiratory medical ward, if this does occur the instruction will be to scan these women 2-3 weeks after their isolation is completed and they have returned a negative RAT and then they will have a virtual consultation. There is a concern still that Covid **MAY** impact placental function when the woman has a severe case of it and **MAY** cause fetal growth issues so more attention to growth needs to occur.

For mama who have been admitted to hospital primarily for Covid infection care, the current consensus of national advice is to offer them induction of labour at 40 weeks gestation even in the

absence of growth or other concerns. This is based on the increased perinatal morbidity seen in women who were affected by the Delta virus and at this stage we do not have enough evidence to be reassured that those that are severely affected do not have the same risks .

For postnatal women who are found to be Covid positive please continue routine postnatal care and consult with and refer to their GP as necessary. Parents will need information about safely caring for pēpi in a Covid positive household. <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-pregnant-people-and-those-who-have-recently-given-birth>

Please encourage all people who are self-testing with RAT's to upload their results via the Covid-19 App so that the MoH have a clearer picture of the infection rates in the community.

CDHB Covid Response Team