COVID-19

Provincial Guidance on Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures (AGMPs) and Upper Gastrointestinal Tract (UGI) Endoscopy and Nasogastric (NG) Tube Placement

Infection Prevention and Control, in consultation with the provincial leads for endoscopy and general surgery, have reviewed the available information from across Canada and abroad and have deemed UGI endoscopy and NG tube placement to not be true AGMPs and are of uncertain risk.

The following recommendations are made for performing these procedures:

1. N95 respirators are only required in the event that a patient requiring either UGI endoscopy or NG tube placement is speculated of having infection with a pathogen that is transmitted by the airborne route (e.g. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*). For clarity, COVID-19 is not considered an airborne infection.

2. If either UGI endoscopy or NG tube placement is being performed on a person with infection with an airborne pathogen, the procedure will need to be performed under negative pressure air flow wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. N95 respirator)
   - For those practitioners who cannot wear N95 respirators, it is advised that they do not perform procedures on persons suspected or confirmed of having infections with pathogens transmitted by the airborne route

3. For patients with confirmed or suspected* COVID-19 infection, it is recommended that all staff within 6 feet/2 meters of an NG tube placement or UGI endoscopy, use enhanced droplet precautions (N95 respirator, gown, gloves, eye/face protection) until such time that further information about the risks associated with NG tube placement or UGI endoscopy is available.
   - N95 respirator use is NOT recommended for patients that are not suspected of or having infection with COVID-19.
   - Routine UGI endoscopy and NG tube placement in patients that are not suspected of or confirmed to have infection with COVID-19, do not require the procedure to be performed in a negative pressure isolation room and do not require N95 respirators or enhanced droplet precautions.

*In this instance, a “suspect” is defined as a patient who has been tested and the result is pending OR a patient who needs to be tested and will be tested post-endoscopy/NG insertion.