



Clinician alert #63 – all clinicians

Effective from 27 August 2021

New information

- Patients presenting to health services should continue to be assessed for COVID-19 risk.
- The approval process for visits to health services and residential aged care facilities has been strengthened.
- There is a national shortage of Xpert COVID-19 PCR kits used for rapid COVID-19 PCR testing on the GeneXpert platform.

Assessing COVID-19 risk of patients presenting to health services

All health services should continue to assess COVID-19 risk on presentation, particularly in:

- A person who has visited a location visited by a confirmed case (an exposure site), listed on [HealthyWA](#) (as appropriate).
- A person who is subject to quarantine requirements, including international passengers, international flight and maritime crew, interstate arrivals from restricted locations, and persons identified as close contacts of a confirmed case.

Patients should be managed accordingly using appropriate infection control measures.

Healthcare facility visits by people in quarantine

- Any request for a person in quarantine to visit a patient of a health care facility should be directed to WA Police (SOCC.COVID19@police.wa.gov.au).
- WA Police will facilitate appropriate WA Health approvals. Please note that healthcare facility executive approval is required for any visit by a person in quarantine.
- A [general principles](#) document for facilities on visits to health care and aged care facilities by people in quarantine is now available.

GeneXpert cartridge national shortage

- The shortage is the result of the escalation of Xpert use in NSW and Victoria, as well as the inability of the company to increase supply to Australia as originally planned.
- The approval processes for GeneXpert tests remain the same, however approvers should be cognisant of the cartridge shortage when considering the urgency of receiving test results.
- Other COVID-19 PCR tests do not currently have supply issues.

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