



## Renfrew County and District Health Unit

*"Optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District"*

### RCDHU Clinical Update Form for Acute Care: Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is a clinical update form?**

A clinical update form provides a brief snapshot of a patient's condition while in hospital. It includes some demographic information, admission and discharge date and location, and provides information on the client's clinical progression and treatments.

#### **Who should be included on the clinical update form?**

Patients who are admitted with a positive COVID-19 result (PCR, RAT, Molecular/ ID Now) should be included on the clinical update form.

#### **When should I remove a patient's name and information from the form?**

When a patient has been discharged home, to another acute care facility, to a retirement home or long-term care home, or is deceased, please indicate so on the clinical update form. The patient's information can then be removed on the subsequent form once RCDHU is notified of the change in status.

If a patient is asymptomatic and not admitted for COVID-19 reasons (ie due to bodily injury, mental health reasons) the patient can be removed from the list once discharged or once 10-day isolation period is complete, whichever is earliest.

If a patient was initially admitted for non-COVID-19 reasons yet develops related symptoms which may extend or complicate their hospitalization, the patient should remain on the clinical update form until discharged.

If a patient was admitted with COVID-19 symptoms and continues to be hospitalized due to persistent symptoms or complications past 10- or 20-day isolation, please keep patient on form until discharged or completely recovered.

If a patient's hospitalization has been complicated by COVID-19 yet the client is now recovered/not receiving active treatment, and pending placement in a retirement home or long-term care home, please indicate so on the form—the client can then be removed from the subsequent form.

#### **How frequently should I fax the clinical update form?**

The form should be received daily to provide information on new admissions, discharges, and noteworthy clinical updates on admitted patients.

#### **What is the difference between a clinical update form and a line list?**

A clinical update form is to be used on all admitted patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis. A line list is only to be used in outbreak situations, for patients directly linked to the outbreak. For more information about line lists, please refer to the following document: *RCDHU Line List: Frequently Asked Questions*

**Do I need to send a clinical update form as well as a line list for patients related to an outbreak?**

No—if the patient is on the line list, they do not need to be added on the clinical update form. If the outbreak is declared over and the case is still hospitalized/receiving treatments for COVID-19, they can then be added to the clinical update form once the line list is no longer sent.