

**COVID 19 :
OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY SERVICES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MALAYSIA.**

JUSTIFICATION:

- ORL services typically include inspection, examination and treatment of upper respiratory and upper aerodigestive tract.
- The additional risk of direct exposure of staff to COVID-19 should be considered in the current critical situation.
- The steps listed below are recommendations, taking into account the local situations and needs within their respective departments and hospitals.
- This temporary measure will be carried out until further notice.

1. OUTPATIENT SERVICES:

- A. A triage is performed by the Medical Officer **for all patients** attending the ORL clinic TO FILTER THE FOLLOWING:
- i) Temperature check upon entry to the specialist clinic complex
 - ii) Who have made overseas visits in the last 14 days
 - iii) Who have attended the ijtimak rally
 - iv) Fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath
 - v) Had close contact with COVID-19 patients
- If any of the above is present, the patient is referred directly to the CPRC as per the MOH's instructions
- B. For scheduled outpatients who attended the ORL clinic without any pressing needs, new appointments are provided with sufficient drug prescribed.
- C. For patients who attend the ORL clinic for specific needs, such as post-op review, urgent review of HPE and radioimaging or other needs requiring immediate attention, due consultation and treatment are to be provided.
- D. All ORL Clinical procedures including any form examination, endoscopy, microscopy and endoscopic evaluation of swallowing etc, should be put on hold and rescheduled.
- E. Exceptions to the above, are made based on a case-to-case basis following discussion with the specialists.

2. INPATIENTS:

- All elective ward admissions including elective / daycare cases are to be put on hold and rescheduled to another date.
- Exceptions are to be considered for cases related to acute infections and upper airway obstruction secondary to any causes.
- All existing Patients in the ward should be discharged as soon as possible following optimal treatment rendered.
- Exceptions to the above, are made based on case-to-case basis following discussion with the specialists.

3. AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH THERAPY:

- Will adhere to the filtering principles as above, except in certain cases assessed on a case-by-case basis after consulting with the Head of Unit/Specialist.
- Only emergency cases requiring urgent diagnosis, specialized therapy and intervention procedures are attended.

4. VISITS TO THE DISTRICT AND CLUSTER HOSPITALS

It is advisable to postpone all hospital visits under your supervision to reduce movement and exposure to both staff and patients. If there is an emergency case, it should be sent immediately to the referral hospital.

5. ORL CONTINGENCY TEAM FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 PATIENTS REQUIRING EMERGENCY ORL PROCEDURES / SURGERY

The HOD of the ORL Department is responsible to establish a COVID-19 contingency team to handle procedures / emergency surgeries should the need arise. This include the following: -

- PPE adoption procedures.
- Identify the special COVID-19 transfer lane as per decided by the hospital administration.
- Identify locations for 'intubation', 'tracheostomy' and surgical procedures taking into account the specific requirements of the 'negative pressure isolation room' etc.
- List of disposables/ non disposable surgical instruments required.

- Methods of sterilization of non-disposable instruments as per guided by the protocols and guidelines.
- This workprocess should follow the guidelines provided by their respective hospitals.
- ORL emergency procedures, especially 'aerosol-generating procedures' such as 'tracheostomy', 'bronchoscopy', should be done with careful planning including full PPE and negative pressure room application by all participating ORL team members.
- Minimum number of personnel is to be ensured so as to minimize exposure and PPE requirement.
- Perioperative management planning of COVID-19 patients requiring surgery and anaesthesia should be thoroughly discussed between the ORL and anaesthesia team prior the procedure or surgery.