Dear ENT UK member,

Following an application by ENT UK to amend the wording of their PPE guidance, Public Health England has agreed to update the recommendations for full PPE to be used when “upper ENT airway procedures” are performed in ALL patients. This new wording ensures that any such intervention should be considered an Aerosol-Generating Procedure (AGP), necessitating the use of appropriate PPE. We expect Public Health England to make a formal announcement to this effect shortly.

In Memoriam

Following the sad news this weekend of the death of ENT consultant Mr Amged El-Hawrani as a result of COVID-19, Michael Kuo, BAPO President, contributes these words:

‘It is with great sadness that we record the passing of our friend and colleague Amged, but it is with gratitude that we remember his life and contribution. After completing his otolaryngology training in the East of Scotland, Amged honed his skills in paediatric otolaryngology as a fellow in Edmonton, before being appointed consultant otolaryngologist at Queen’s Hospital Burton, leading their paediatric service. His contributions as surgeon and associate medical director – instrumental in the merger of Burton and Derby Hospitals – are well known, but he remained such a kind and modest man that he was a model to all those who knew him. One of his erstwhile colleagues from Edmonton wrote: “I will always remember Amged as a person who radiated peace and deeply cared about those around him.” I am sure that is how almost everyone will remember him. Our deepest condolences go to his family.’

Mark Johnston, of Royal Derby Hospital, is raising money in Mr El-Hawrani’s honour, and on behalf of all NHS staff working in these difficult times, for Derby and Burton Hospitals Charity. You can visit the fundraising page here.

Operation COVID

In light of the limited evidence surrounding best practice in the operating theatre during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh Surgical Research Initiative is establishing a process to help rapidly canvas
opinion, identify challenges and determine consensus among health professionals. As wide a sample of experience as possible is sought, including the input of multidisciplinary members of theatre teams, in order to help inform national research priority setting and focus. More information can be found in the Operation COVID flyer.

Please also be aware that ENT UK has produced an FAQ document for use by patients, linked below. This will be posted under the ‘patient information’ section of our COVID-19 webpage, and we hope it will prove a useful resource to patients, and to health professionals who can direct them to it.

We will continue to push for greater safety for our members and colleagues during this crisis, and in the meantime, I request that each and every one of you please ensure that you wear appropriate PPE when providing care for our patients. We must make sure that the sad and untimely death of our colleague does not go in vain. Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Professor Nirmal Kumar,
President of ENT UK

New guidance today

- ENT UK COVID-19 patient advice FAQs

Existing guidance and resources

- ENT UK COVID-19 Adult Tonsillitis and Quinsy Guidelines - PDF
- PPE for nasal endoscope decontamination during the COVID-19 pandemic
- PPE for the Covid-19 Pandemic Survey
- Experiences of a Paediatric Otolaryngologist: navigating the current challenges
- BAPO statement on SARS Cov2 and Paediatric Otolaryngology Provision - PDF
- FFP3 respirator usage: current ENT UK recommendation
- Guidance PPE for patients with emergency oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal conditions whose COVID Status is unknown
- Guidance for undertaking otological procedures during COVID-19 pandemic
- COVID-19 Epistaxis Management
- FFP3 respirator usage: current ENT UK recommendations
- Advice for patients with new-onset anosmia during COVID-19 pandemic
- COVID-19 letter to members
- Initial guidance for head and neck cancer management during Covid-19
- BAETS statement on COVID-19 and Thyroid Cancer Services - PDF
- COVID-19 letter to members
Remote triaging of urgent suspected head and neck cancer referrals during Covid-19 pandemic
Nasal endoscopy and laryngoscopy examination of ENT patients
COVID-19 Tracheostomy Guidance
Aerosol-generating procedures in ENT
Loss of sense of smell as marker of COVID-19 infection
COVID-19 letter to members
ENTUK Guidelines for changes in ENT during COVID-19 Pandemic
NTSP considerations for tracheostomy in the Covid-19 outbreak
Tracheostomy guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic
Initial guidance for head and neck cancer management during Covid-19 Pandemic
Guidance for ENT during the COVID-19 pandemic
ENT UK response to COVID 19 and BACO 2020

You can find all of these documents and more on our dedicated COVID-19 webpage, which is regularly updated with valuable guidance and resources for members, so please continue to check there for the latest documents and most up-to-date information.