

Dear Doctor

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a focus on shifting to innovative, alternative, new models of care delivery. This includes online consultations and home-based care, equivalent to an in-hospital setting for selected patients.

Introducing Connected Care at Home

Connected Care at Home offers qualifying members with low acuity disease the option of hospital-level care in place of hospitalisation or the option of early hospital discharge.

The programme will commence with Discovery Health Medical Scheme members presenting with Stage II COVID-19 infection. The programme will then rapidly scale to include the following conditions*:

- Community-acquired pneumonia
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Complicated urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Heart failure
- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)
- Cellulitis
- Dehydration

**The expansion of eligible conditions and other Discovery Health administered participating schemes will be communicated once approved.*

Benefits included in Connected Care at Home

As of May 2021, client medical scheme members can have selected hospital care in their homes. This is enabled by doctor-led patient management and oversight throughout the homecare event as well as support from the home-nurse, who will administer the treatment plan prescribed by the admitting doctor.

The member will be able to access prescribed consultations with relevant allied healthcare professionals and have prescribed pathology tests done at home. 24-hour virtual monitoring of members' vital signs are captured by a SAPHRA approved device and the readings will be accessible to you as the treating doctor and the support care team. The system will notify the care team if urgent attention is required and immediate action will be taken when necessary, keeping the admitting doctor closely updated.

Criteria for activation of COVID-19 acute care at home

DHMS members meeting the following criteria qualify for activation of the benefit if:

- They test positive for SARS-CoV-2 using the PCR test
- Stage II (pulmonary phase) COVID-19 infection
- Eligible for general-ward level admission for acute care or early discharge at home
- Favourable inflammatory markers

Qualifying members can be referred to the Connected Care at Home programme by you, as their admitting doctor, after appropriate assessment and member consent.

Homecare options to you

The admission will be allocated based on capacity of available service providers, either Discovery HomeCare or Quro Medical, to access the following:

1. Remote monitoring only
2. In lieu of hospitalisation
3. Early discharge from hospital into the home

Phases of COVID-19:

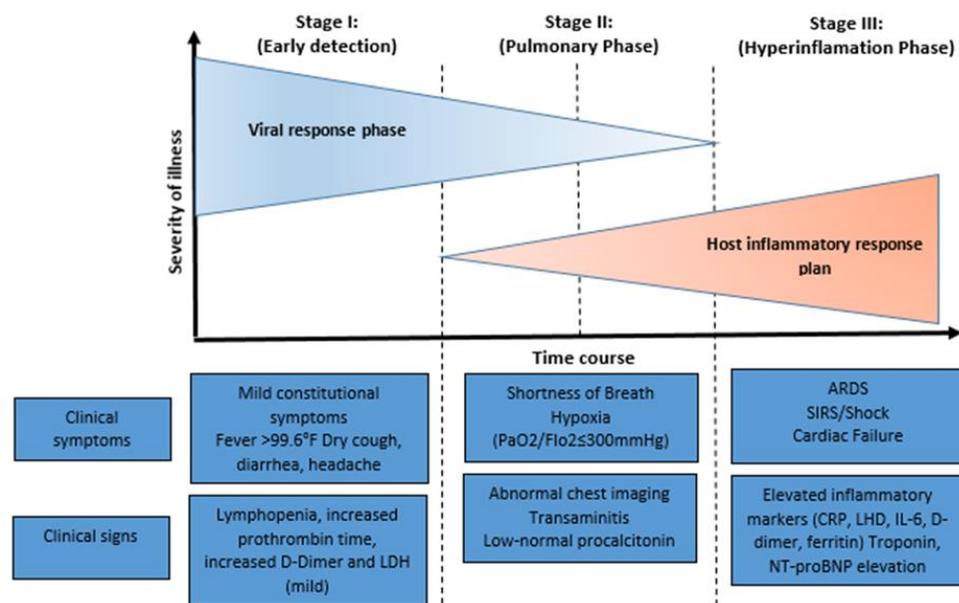


Figure 1: Classification of COVID-19 disease states: Therapeutic Staging Proposal (Siddiqi et al, 2020)

Fees for the treating doctor

Primary doctors may bill the following codes:

- **Remote monitoring only option (five-day episode)**

The following fees include clinical oversight by the admitting doctor for the duration of the remote-monitoring episode:

Code	Description	Detail	Tariff
RMGP	Remote monitoring by general practitioner	Billed per day	R450.00
RMPH	Remote monitoring by physician or intensivist	Billed per day	R650.00

- **Acute admission at home**

These fees include clinical oversight by the admitting doctor, a treatment plan, daily virtual check-ins (ward rounds) with the nurses and member for the duration of the home admission:

Treating doctor multiplier code	Detail	Description	Rule
DRH@H	Billed per day	Hospital at home, doctor extra 50% on the consultation code	Link this modifier to 0190, 0191, 0192 or 0109

How to apply

To apply for Connected Care at Home, please complete the Connected Care at Home for COVID-19 application form and email it to covidhomecare@discovery.co.za or call us on 0860 46 22 73 (Monday to Sunday from 8:00 to 16:30) and 081 765 4002 (Monday to Sunday from 16:30 to 22:00). Members must sign a consent form before we can activate the benefit.

Connected Care for acute care at home for COVID-19 is currently only available in Gauteng and surrounding areas. We will keep you informed about the availability of home-based acute care in other regions once this becomes available.

Contact us

If you have any questions about the benefit, please email healthpartners@discovery.co.za

Regards



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