



Tips to Overcoming COVID-19 Screening Fatigue

The goal of COVID-19 screening is to identify a patient’s potential exposure to COVID-19 and identify if a patient needs to be treated in a COVID-19 cohort clinic or shift. Dialysis providers have reported experiencing respondent fatigue from patients when conducting the COVID-19 screening questionnaire. This type of fatigue is a persistent threat to the effectiveness of the screening process. As a provider, please consider the following guidance when working to improve responses and engagement with COVID-19 screenings.

Differentiate between patient specific characteristics such as ESRD symptom clusters/patterns and signs and symptoms of COVID-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incorporate your patient’s mean body temperature to determine what a “fever” is for them	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ask about changes to relevant signs and symptoms since last visit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revise screening to identify asymptomatic transmission as well as symptomatic transmission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure screening questions are available in the patient's primary language and interpretation services are used	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop a weekly list of local outbreak locations (include schools and workplaces)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify if patient works in or lives with someone who works in a high-risk environment or one experiencing an outbreak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inquire about attendance to recent events or gatherings (concerts, cultural, or faith-based activities)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educate your patients about safe visitor best practices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identify patients that travel frequently outside their community and provide education about risk of exposure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure screening questions and responses improve communication with home caregivers or family members	<input type="checkbox"/>

As you revise your screening process, educate all staff about the screening process, the importance of using a conversational tone and remind them report observations during chairside conversations that many indicate potential exposure to COVID-19. Stay alert to other concerns patients may share. For example, many patients are fearful of answering screening questions incorrectly and being sent to a COVID-19 isolation clinic. Providers should revise screening to identify these fears and inform patients about the practices at the clinic. Providers should further ease fears by addressing concerns about transportation, schedule changes, and options if any extreme hardships should occur. As always strive to maintain consistent messaging by outlining the reason for the screening “we do this to keep our patients and staff safe”.

References:

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