Singapore’s experience in ensuring continuity of outpatient care during the COVID-19 pandemic

Kathleen SY Sek¹, Andre TH Tan¹, Alexander WJ Yip¹, Eve ME Boon ¹, GG Teng¹, and Chun-Tsu Lee¹

¹Alexandra Hospital

April 28, 2020

Abstract

The COVID-19 outbreak is a global pandemic with rapid community spread. Patients with multi-morbidities are particularly vulnerable during this time. The number of cases soared in early February 2020, and Singapore declared escalation of the Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) level to Orange. Multiple measures have been taken to combat the spread of this highly contagious infection. Despite our medical manpower being diverted to the wards, our hospital aims to maintain nearly full operations at the clinic, balancing against concern about the spread of the virus and exposing healthcare workers to potential risks. We describe the measures taken in a tertiary hospital in Singapore to mitigate the risk of infection in the outpatient setting while ensuring that continuing clinical care of patients with chronic diseases is not compromised.

Cover page

Kathleen SY Sek¹, Andre TH Tan¹, Alexander WJ Yip², Eve ME Boon⁵, GG Teng¹,⁶,⁷, Chun-Tsu Lee¹,³,⁷

1. Chronic Program, Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital System, Singapore.
2. Fast Program, Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital System, Singapore.
3. Department of Haematology-Oncology, National University Cancer Institute Singapore, National University Hospital, Singapore.
4. Division of Endocrinology, University Medicine Cluster, National University Hospital, Singapore.
5. Department of Ambulatory Operations, Alexandra Hospital, National University Hospital System, Singapore.
6. Division of Rheumatology, University Medicine Cluster, National University Hospital, Singapore.
7. Department of Medicine, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University Singapore.

Corresponding Author: Dr Chun-Tsu Lee, Blk 20, 378 Alexandra Road, Singapore 159964. Tel: +65 64722000. E-mail: chun_tsu lee@nuhs.edu.sg

Hosted file