

Patient Concerns for COVID-19: Ensuring Follow-up at Barre Family **Health Center**

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Background:

- COVID-19 presents an unusual and dangerous clinical situation in that:
 - the clinical diagnosis is often challenging,
 - the laboratory test has a high false negative rate,
 - the clinical course may include rapid decompensation, and
 - the disease is contagious
- Primary care registries have historically been used for chronic, not acute, illness. COVID-19 requires high fidelity, iterative updates of EMR reports to allow for timely, ongoing patient follow-up.

Goals:

- To develop a comprehensive registry to identify at-risk and confirmed COVID-19 patients of the Barre Family Health Center
- To capture the following groups of patients in our registry:
 - Who tested positive а.
 - b. Who requested a test and had relevant symptoms but did not receive testing
 - c. Who had symptoms concerning for COVID-19 but tested negative
 - d. Who were asked to self-quarantine and were not tested, and
 - e. Who were evaluated outside of the UMass system
- To establish a follow-up protocol for patients at the Barre Family Health Center as there is currently no primary care protocol relating to COVID-19 patients

Limitations:

- While capturing patients falling under bullet a. and c. above was quite feasible, we were unable to capture those from b., d., and e. due to limitations within Epic.
 - Many symptoms were recorded in Telephone encounters instead of in notes in Epic
 - We currently do not have the ability to search Ο through free text in Epic charts.
- The team members manually searched through each patient chart in order to identify symptoms and test dates, so this is prone to human error.

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atients with confirmed or suspected sis in Barre" daily.										
d to the master registry in Excel.										
ge in /sm Sore throat		lach	Weaknes s	Fever (>100.4)	Appetite	Diarrhea	Nausea	Vomiting	Other Sx	
	1									
Who was ICU or the Intubated contact ?			moking tatus	Notes:	Date Added	Last Updat	ted			
Stephen Martin, MD	artin,		lever moker		7/2/20	20				



groups. 0

not tested.

Next Steps:

- Recruit ~3 first year medical students to continue the elective.
- Create manuscript for Quality Improvement or Primary Care Journal.
- Ensure the report can be utilized by other practices.



- 377 unique patients were added to the registry (March 1st - August 3rd).
- 54 patients were tagged as "Follow Up Needed: and categorized into the three color-coded
- There was an average of 6.4 unique patients added to the registry daily.
 - Spike in number of new patients on June 19th, 2020, attributed to free community testing.
- 51 patients tested positive at the Barre Family Health Center from March 1 to present.
- 40 patients had symptoms concerning for COVID-19 but tested negative.
- In addition to untested patients that were included in our color-coded groups, 31 additional patients appeared in the EPIC report but were