

Supplemental Information to the Guidance Note for MS Therapy Centres

In view of an additional three weeks of lockdown as the professional advisors to MSTC/MSNTC we offer the following points:

- *Centre staff cannot work from home and therefore can attend centres whilst maintaining the same protective measures used, for example, in supermarkets.*
- *Many patients who would normally attend for oxygen treatment are suffering and more oxygen would not only help them stay in remission but also protect against Covid-19 and other viruses. Oxygen is the only effective treatment against the virus. Trials are planned but will not yield results for some time.*
- *Patients can attend centres for treatment provided as stated in the Guidance note:*
 1. *They have no symptoms of a respiratory illness*
 2. *They maintain strict measures to protect against spreading the virus by social distancing and hygiene precautions, such as hand washing etc*

When asked we will produce a letter for those centres who decide to reopen in case travel provisions and centre opening are questioned. Again we must stress we are following government advice i.e. the provision of “objects that might already allow support to be offered.” That is for :

- The relief of need, hardship or distress.
- The relief of the elderly.
- The advancement of health.

Most centres can provide treatment with just two people operating who can maintain the necessary social distancing, as can members. Hand washing and cleaning of equipment with soap and water will be necessary. Patients and, if needed, relatives can also maintain distancing when entering and leaving centres and minimise social contact. Patients will be better off than usual as these provisions protect against other infections including the endemic influenza viruses.

Although it will be difficult to determine which patients need to be given priority, some members will have maintained their status despite missing oxygen sessions. No doubt centre staff will have some idea of those who are the most vulnerable and can start with just a few patients to get the appropriate measures in place. These issues will have to be faced eventually and lockdown will certainly end without a vaccine being available.

Attached is a paper from Dr. Paul Harch detailing Chinese experience of using hyperbaric oxygen treatment in severely ill Covid-19 patients: The graph shows the increasing and sustained benefit measured by haemoglobin saturation after each session in the chamber.

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18th April 2020