

Referral for in-home primary assessments for COVID-19

Instructions for Primary Assessment Centre Staff

Introduction

The Primary Assessment Centre care directive has been expanded to allow community nursing teams to screen patients for COVID-19 in their homes, if they are eligible.

Eligibility for in-home assessments

Patients who are housebound and unable to travel to a primary assessment centre are currently the only client group currently eligible for Continuing Care in-home primary assessment for COVID-19. As is done currently, all other options to support transportation to a Primary Assessment Centre must first be explored.

Housebound definition: the patient is not able to leave their home environment on their own or with minimal assistance to attend appointments, social events, shopping and banking.

Referral to Continuing Care

If a patient is determined to be housebound, a referral must be sent to Continuing Care for a nurse to perform the in-home assessment. In-home primary assessments will be performed by community nursing teams. The intake process is the same as other Continuing Care nursing visits; this will be considered a “one-time” home visit. Please complete the referral fully and accurately to ensure there are no delays to providing service. The referral form can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.cdha.nshealth.ca/node/20570>

A referral training document has been made available.

Sending the referral

Once completed, please fax it to the number indicated next to the appropriate zone shown at the top of the referral. If you have any questions, please reach out to the appropriate zone’s intake office below, or call Continuing Care at the toll free number: 1 (800) 225-7225

	Western	Northern	Eastern	Central
Phone	1-866-246-4554	1-866-682-8170	902-563-3433	902-455-3809
Email	CC_Intake@swndha.nshealth.ca	CEHHC.ContinuingCare@nshealth.ca	CCReferrals.CB@nshealth.ca	ContinuingCareCentralIntake@nshealth.ca

After completing the referral, it is important to share the next steps with the patient:

- The Primary Assessment Centre will send the referral to the Continuing Care intake office, who will forward it to the home nursing team in the geographic area where the patient lives
- The community nursing team will call the patient to schedule an in-home assessment within 24 hours.
- Public Health will notify the patient of the results of their test.