

## COVID-19 Rapid Guideline: Critical Care (NG159)

### What you need to know

NICE have published new COVID-19 rapid guidelines in relation to Critical Care. The purpose of the guideline is to maximise the safety of patients who need critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic, while protecting staff from infection. A number of aspects are included in the guidance including:

#### Admission to Hospital;

- Use the Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) for frailty assessment for all new adult admissions (NB \*CFS may not be accurate in long term, stable learning disability)
- Appropriate Infection Prevention and control measures
- Guidance on actions required when a case was not diagnosed on admission

#### Admission to Critical Care:

- Discussion of risk, benefits and possible outcomes of different treatment options with patients, families and carers allowing them, to make informed decisions
- Involve Critical Care teams in discussions about admission where indicated by the CFS assessment
- Ensure that there is effective communication regarding DNACPR with patients of increased frailty

#### Starting, Reviewing and stopping critical care treatment

- Ensure there are clear treatment plans which are reviewed regularly and stop critical care treatment when it is considered no longer able to achieve the desired outcome.

#### Clinical Decision Making

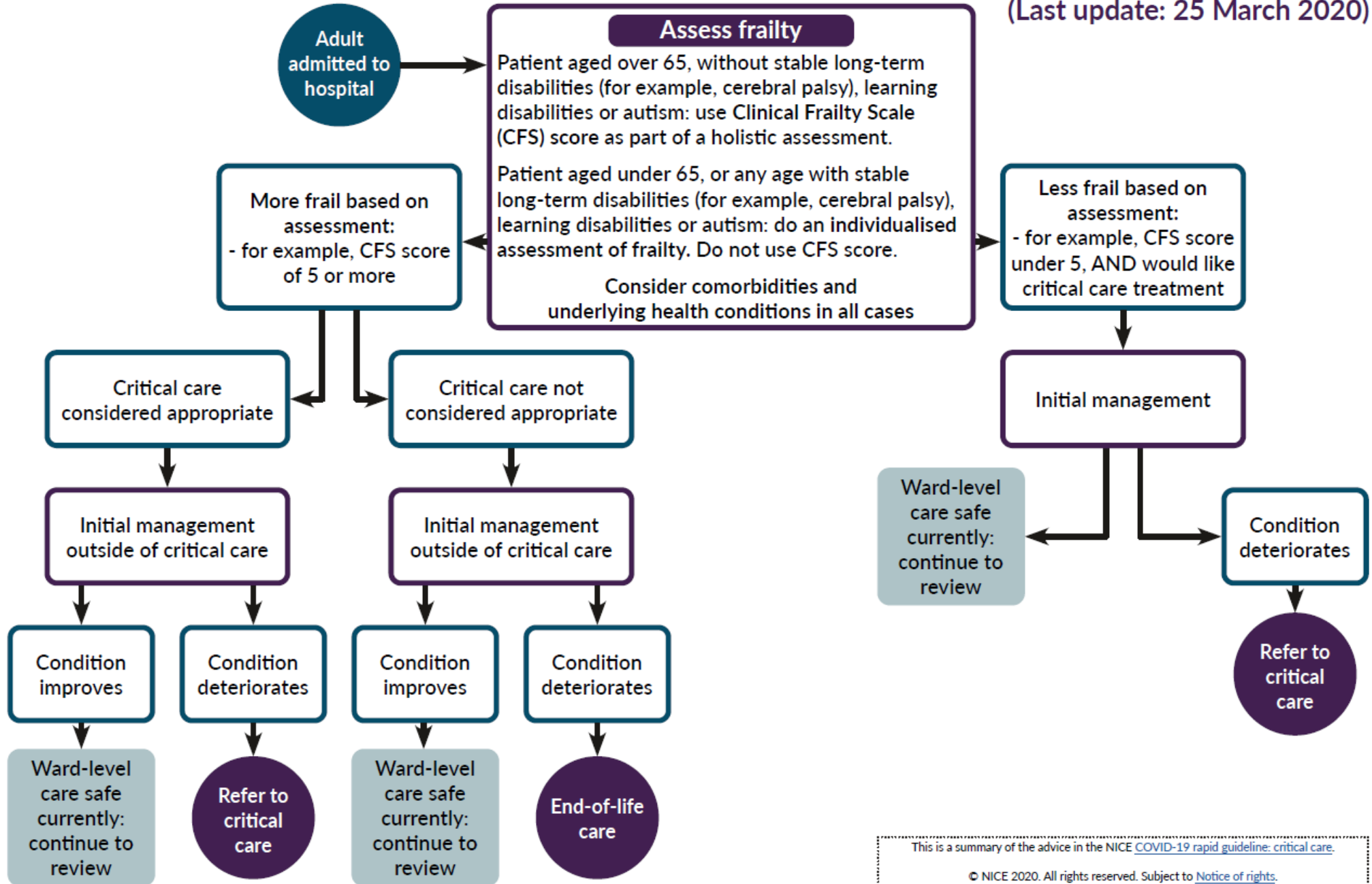
- Decisions about the use of critical care resources should only be made by, or with the support of, healthcare professionals with expert knowledge and skills in critical care.
- Base decisions regarding admitting patients to critical care on the likelihood of their recovery, taking in to account the likelihood that a person will recover from their critical care admission to an outcome that is acceptable to them.

Guidance regarding the treatment of COVID-19 may change with emerging scientific data and knowledge this may require changes to treatment being provided.

### What you can do

- Ensure that you use the Clinical Frailty Scale and record this assessment in the patients' medical records
- Support staff, especially where healthcare professional are providing additional support to critical care.
- Review and follow the flowchart below
- If you are uncertain or need additional support and advice then please seek support.
- Ensure you are aware of new guidance as it is published; the Quality Governance team will provide updates as and when new guidance is published from NICE.

Full guidance: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng159/>



This is a summary of the advice in the NICE [COVID-19 rapid guideline: critical care](#).

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