

## BC Hemodialysis COVID-19 Screening: Questions & Answers

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Thank you to all the hemodialysis (HD) units in BC for your assistance in implementing the standardized COVID-19 screening questionnaire. This document summarizes responses to commonly asked questions.

### 1. Has the screening questionnaire been translated into other languages?

Yes. The questionnaire has been translated into **8 languages**, including English. Refer to: [www.bcrenalagency.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/novel-coronavirus-\(covid-19\)](http://www.bcrenalagency.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/novel-coronavirus-(covid-19))

### 2. Which questionnaires should be entered into PROMIS?

If a patient has a **"Yes"** response to any of the **5 core questions OR** any of the **additional 11 symptoms**, we would like to receive that data and you should fax that form or enter that person's data into PROMIS. The data only needs to be entered into PROMIS the **first time** a new symptom is noted.

If a patient answers **"No"** to ALL questions, you DO NOT need to enter the data or fax the form to PROMIS. We will assume that a patient answered "No" to all questions unless their questionnaire is returned to us.

### 3. Should a questionnaire be administered to a patient who already had a swab test performed?

Please administer the questionnaire to **every HD outpatient** on your HD unit, **every time** they attend for dialysis. Whether the patient was previously swabbed or not, and irrespective of the result, should not impact who receives the questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire in the same way for each patient regardless of previous COVID-19 testing.

### 4. Should I tick the symptoms on the questionnaire or provide a free text response?

Comments and free text responses are challenging for the research team to interpret, which could result in a data entry error. For symptoms in which there is a "core" or "additional" symptom listed on the form, please check the relevant box. Only if there is no relevant box and it is a new symptom, please enter in the "free text" section of the form.

Please note: Inputting "free text" into PROMIS will not be available until February 1, 2021.

### 5. Should we use the COVID-19 screening questionnaire to screen admitted patients (inpatients) who come to the outpatient HD unit for their dialysis?

The use of the screening questionnaire with admitted patients (inpatients) who come to the outpatient HD unit for their dialysis is **optional**. These patients will not be included in our data summary reports.

**6. What constitutes “close contact with a known or suspected COVID-19 positive person” (question 5 on the questionnaire)?**

Examples of “**close contacts**” include patients who:

- Live with a known or suspected COVID-19 positive person
- Has had close face-to-face contact (within 2 metres) with a known or suspected COVID-19 positive person (e.g., in a workplace).
- Come from an assisted living/residential care facility with an active COVID-19 outbreak (if a patient comes from a facility with no active outbreak, this does not constitute a “close contact”).
- Is admitted to a COVID-19 unit in the hospital and comes to the HD outpatient unit (if a patient is on an inpatient unit with no COVID positive patients, this does not constitute a “close contact”).

**7. If a patient answers “yes” to one or more questions on the BC Renal screening questionnaire, should we automatically swab the patient for COVID-19?**

No. The questionnaire is intended to assist HD teams in identifying patients who have flu/COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with a known or suspected COVID-19 positive person. Answering “yes” to any of these questions does not automatically imply a COVID-19 swab is required. **The decision to swab is made on a case-by-case basis by the nephrologist/HD team** (i.e., each HA has its own protocol for swabbing).

**8. Is there a deadline for sending the questionnaires/entering the data into PROMIS?**

We would appreciate all HD units faxing their data sheets or entering their data into PROMIS as soon as possible (ideally at the end of each dialysis day) but by **Tuesday of the following week** at the latest (e.g., data for the current week of dialysis be submitted by Tues of next week at the latest).

**9. Can we pull a report for our HD unit on the numbers of questionnaires submitted/entered?**

Yes. PROMIS users can use the **COVID-19 Questionnaire/Dialysis Runs Report** to view the number of COVID questionnaires submitted in proportion to the number of HD runs for a specific date range for an individual HD unit.

**Navigation:** PROMIS 4 main menu bar > Reports > Reports screen > COVID-19 > Questionnaire/Dialysis Runs Report

**10. Is there anything else I should know?**

Please remember to include the date on the questionnaire if faxing to PROMIS. For those of you entering data directly into PROMIS, please ensure that the date provided is the date the questionnaire was administered.