



COVID-19 Headlines

April 4, 2020

■ DOCUMENTATION RELIEF

To reduce the tremendous burdens on you, we have been working on options for **temporary documentation relief** during this COVID-19 crisis. We have approved and moved into production the streamlining of Nursing Assessments and Care Plans in the emergency departments and inpatient units as well as restraint documentation. In addition, the documentation elements associated with the Sepsis Program have been temporarily suspended. We are looking for other documentation relief options and will move those forward as rapidly as possible.

■ COVID-19 TESTING OF SYMPTOMATIC EMPLOYEES

Starting on Tuesday, April 7, if you develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we would like to **test you for this viral infection** using the PCR test with a nasopharyngeal swab within a few days of the onset of your symptoms. This will provide guidance to you and to Employee Health Services regarding your clinical status and return to work. If you were symptomatic prior to April 7, we would like to test you for COVID-19 infection using the serum antibody test. This will provide guidance to you on whether you did have COVID-19 infection as well as whether you are a candidate to provide a plasma donation to help others. Donation would of course be voluntary. On Monday we will post easy-to-follow instructions on the [employee resources website](#).

■ PALLIATIVE CARE AT HOME

We have launched Mount Sinai Palliative Care at Home, a new program for **seriously ill patients with COVID-19** who wish to be at home focusing on comfort and quality of life. The program will enroll patients from the hospital and the ED, and those who are already at home. Palliative care specialists provide care through video and telephone visits 24/7, and medications are delivered to patients' homes to help with symptom control. Referrals for patients who live anywhere in the five boroughs are accepted by calling 212-241-2496.