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[COVID-19] EHR Screening for Wuhan Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) [ECRI Exclusive User Experience Network]

Problem

1. If electronic health records (EHRs) are not configured to effectively screen patients for Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), staff may not be alerted to take the necessary isolation precautions.
    ◦ The patient may not receive proper treatment.
    ◦ Patients, visitors, and staff may be exposed to coronavirus and contribute to further spread of the virus, when this could have been avoided.

ECRI Recommendations:

EHR Administrators and Infection Prevention Staff:

1. Ensure that patient screenings include 2019 nCoV questions.
2. Monitor guidance from the CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html.
    1. Regularly check for updates.
3. Include 2019-nCoV screening in EHR workflows.

    1. Verify that your workflows match CDC recommendations.

    2. Consult your EHR vendor for availability.

4. Clearly flag the patients in the EHR for example clearly state in the patients header.
5. Visit the **Coronavirus Outbreak Preparedness Center** (https://www.ecri.org/coronavirus-outbreak-preparedness-center) for additional ECRI Institute resources.

Nurse Educators:

1. Educate staff to use the screening tool.

Background:

1. The CDC has posted Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV.
2. The CDC guidance is being updated as new information becomes available, so healthcare facilities must periodically check for updates.
3. If criteria is met the providers are advised to follow isolation precautions for the affected patients.

4. EPIC, a major EHR vendor, has announced that it sent an update to its screening questionnaire workflow.

    ◦ ECRI Institute expects other vendors will follow.

References & Source Documents:

1. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html

2. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.htm

3. https://ipac-canada.org/coronavirus-resources.php

UMDNS Term(s)

Information Systems, Data Management, Health Record [22507]

Geographic Region(s)

Worldwide

Suggested Distribution

Clinical/Biomedical Engineering, Emergency/Outpatient Services, Risk Management/Continuous Quality Improvement, Information Technology

Comment

• This alert is a living document and may be updated when ECRI Institute receives additional information.