Tackling Long COVID: The CDC COVID-19 Response

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CDC COVID-19 Response

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Who We Are

- CDC COVID-19 Response
- Health Systems and Worker Safety Task Force (1 of 9)
- Clinical Disease and Health Services Team (5 units)
- Late Sequelae Unit (5 staff)
Late Sequelae Unit Goals

- **Describe and define** heterogenous late sequelae
- **Better characterize** many manifestations of late sequelae
- **Identify** possible sequelae not well-characterized
- Better understand **clinical practice** and **healthcare utilization** for late sequelae
- **Evaluate frequency** of late sequelae
- **Guide** public health messaging and clinical treatment
- **Disseminate** public messaging
Strategies

Characterize & Identify

Assess Frequency

Coordinate

Outreach

Communication

Establish Terminology and Case Definitions
Characterize using administrative data and chart reviews

- Medical record abstraction pilot project
  - One medical center
  - Patients testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 from March 1, 2020–November 1, 2020 with ≥ 1 follow-up visit ≥ 14 days after diagnosis
  - Demographics, symptoms, hospitalization, etc.
- Scale-up medical chart abstractions to 3 post-COVID clinics
- Partnership with nationwide physical rehabilitation provider to examine electronic health record data from patients enrolled in Post-COVID Recovery and Reconditioning clinics
Characterize using administrative data and chart reviews

- **Integrated healthcare system electronic health record analysis**
  - Focus on healthcare utilization and clinical characteristics among **non-hospitalized** patients ≥ 28 days after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 with continuous enrollment in previous 12 months
  - Uses ICD-10 diagnostic codes, longitudinal follow-up 28–180 days after diagnosis
  - Describe most common pre-existing and new diagnoses, calculate diagnosis visit rates over time

- **Retrospective matched cohort analysis using Premier healthcare database**
  - Comprehensive healthcare database with large, diverse population
  - Uses ICD-10 diagnostic codes, inpatient and outpatient coverage

- **Initial queries using PCORnet® (National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network)**
  - Large dataset, beyond ICD-10, pediatric population
Assess frequency using patient surveys

- Administer surveys to people who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 with questions about acute COVID-19 symptoms, symptoms they are currently experiencing, healthcare seeking behavior, mental health and functional status pre- and post-COVID-19
  - State confirmed COVID-19 cases
  - Internet panel survey
- Use **standardized questions** where possible to enable comparisons
  - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
  - National Health Interview Survey
  - Medicare Health Outcomes Survey
Coordinate efforts to work towards common terminology and definitions
Communications and Outreach

Late Sequelae of COVID-19

The identification of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in December 2019 has led to a growing and continually evolving body of knowledge about the virus and the disease it causes, COVID-19.

Treating Long COVID: Clinician Experience with Post-Acute COVID-19 Care

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Webinar

Thursday, January 28, 2021
Late Sequelae Unit can be contacted at eocevent513@cdc.gov

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.