

COVID 19: NARCH - GOOD PRACTICE AND SAFE BEHAVIOURS FOR HYDROTHERAPY – REVISED NOVEMBER 2021

Coronavirus remains a serious health risk and therefore, it is important that all NARCH Hydrotherapy Centres and Registered Canine Hydrotherapists stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

How can I keep my clients, staff and business safe?

Ensure that all clients, staff and visitors to your centre are fully briefed of your COVID safety protocols and that they abide by these. It is of paramount importance that any staff member or client with symptoms of Covid-19, should not attend the centre without a negative test result first. It is vital that you refer to the latest government advice on [keeping workplaces safe](#) on a regular basis, as this will help you assess the risks and continue to reduce COVID-19 transmission. [Working safely during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic \(hse.gov.uk\)](#) This includes links to information on:

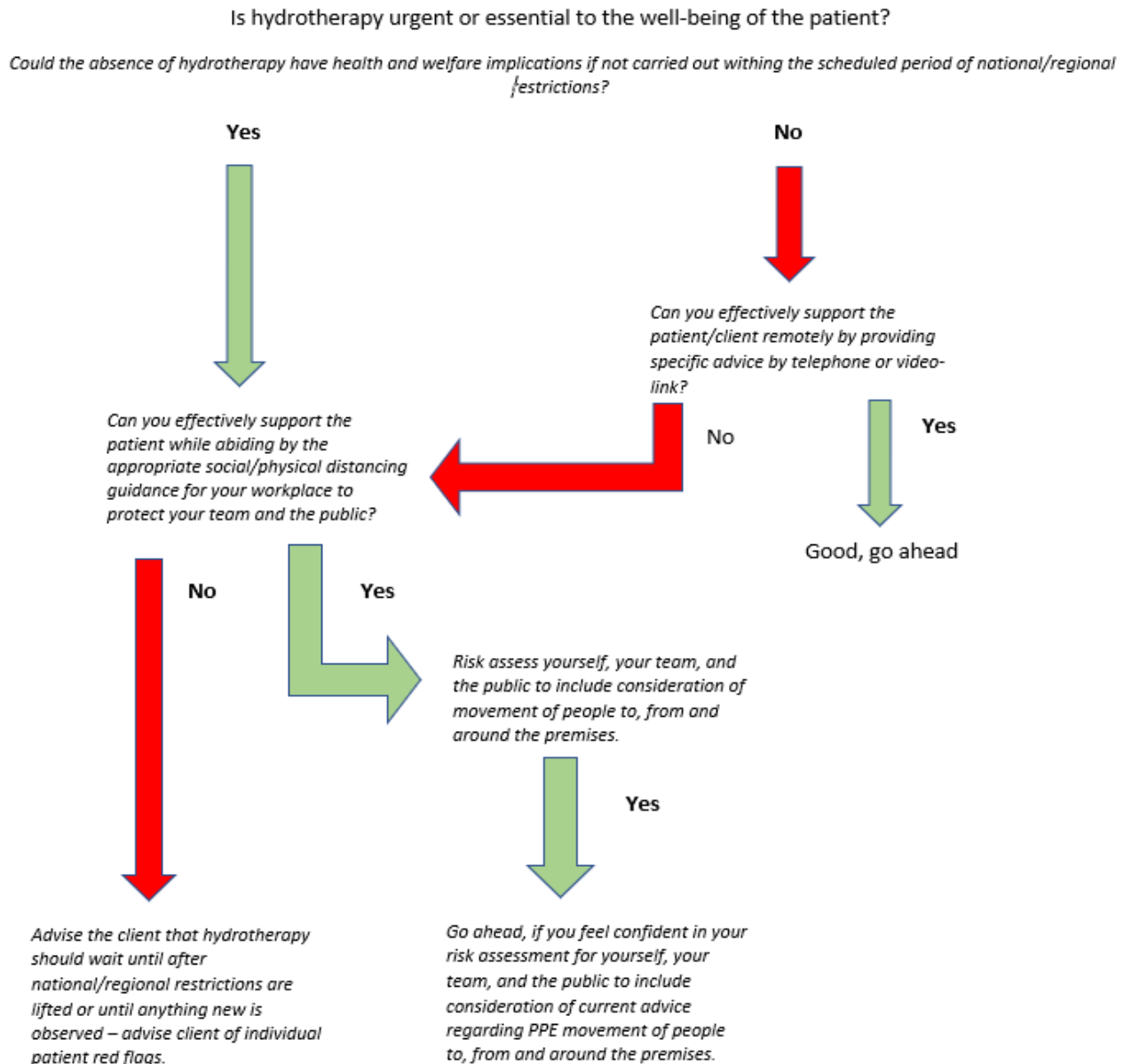
- [Risk assessment](#)
- [Cleaning, hygiene & handwashing](#)
- [Working from home](#)
- [Ventilation & air conditioning](#)
- [Talk to workers & provide information](#)
- [Vulnerable workers](#)

In the event of further restrictions, my clients may be concerned as to whether their pet's treatment constitutes 'essential travel' and worry about being fined; what should I do?

COVID restrictions fall under the Health and Safety at Work Act which means that we are jointly accountable with our clients regarding the decisions made about the essential nature of therapy – which is why risk assessment is so important. When consulting with clients, ensure that you openly and honestly discuss your clinical decision trail together with their own personal circumstances, so that you reach a mutually agreed decision about what is in the welfare interests of their pet. Documentation of this process is advised as evidence of the nature of the journey and/or your work should this be required by the police. NB. A signed client disclaimer does not absolve you from this responsibility.

Should case numbers surge once again and further lockdowns/restrictions are imposed either regionally or nationally, can NARCH Centres continue to treat cases where health and welfare issues are, or may become apparent, during the period of restrictions?

In this situation, you are required to carry out a Covid-19 Risk assessment – see below.



NB: All centres must ensure that patient files show clear records of treatment decisions made regarding welfare and your risk assessment procedures and retain these on the patients file for future reference.