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# Managing the supportive care needs of those affected by COVID-19

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**For patients with COVID-19, there is a moral obligation to provide good supportive care to prevent avoidable suffering. This article provides a succinct informative overview, clinical guidance and information sheets for both patients and families.** <https://bit.ly/2UPFsOj>

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Globally, the number of people affected by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is rapidly increasing. In most (>80%), the illness is relatively mild and can be self-managed out of hospital. However, for about 20%, the illness causes respiratory compromise severe enough to require hospital admission [1]. Patients with severe and critical disease need full active treatment. This may include oxygen for hypoxaemia and ventilatory support, along with optimal management of complications, *e.g.* super-imposed bacterial infection, and any underlying comorbidities, *e.g.* COPD or congestive heart failure. To date, no antiviral agent has shown to be effective in treating the disease [2].