patients requiring hospitalisation
suspect covid-19 in any seriously ill patients with influenza-like illness, ARDS*, or pneumonia

Preparing the GP surgery in advance
advise patients with a cough or fever to avoid attending in person, via:
- reception staff
- automated phone systems
- prominent posters
- SMS message systems
- warning notice on online booking systems

self isolation
patients do not need to contact NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days, they should contact NHS 111 online. For a medical emergency, they should dial 999

anyone displaying coronavirus symptoms should stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms first appeared
if anyone displaying coronavirus symptoms lives with others, all asymptomatic members of the household should stay at home for 14 days
choose a well ventilated room, and keep away from other household members not displaying symptoms

Do not invite visitors
Groceries or medication should be dropped off on the doorstep by friends, family, or delivery drivers

Double bag waste and put it aside for at least 72 hours, before putting it in usual household waste bin

if possible, do not enter room, reassure and update patient by telephone

clean and disinfect hard surfaces and reusable care equipment after patient leaves. cleaners should wear personal protective equipment.

personal protective equipment (PPE) in primary care

If contact with patient is unavoidable, and for cleaning the isolation room afterwards, use standard PPE

dispose of PPE as clinical waste after use

UK government advice on self isolation is available at: http://bit.ly/ukgovisol

* ARDS = acute respiratory distress syndrome