



AUSTRALASIAN
MEDICAL SERVICES COALITION

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Adjunct Professor Annabelle Farnsworth,
Chief Medical Officer,
Douglass Hanly Moir Pathology.

4th January 2021

Dear Adj. Professor Annabelle Farnsworth,

Re: Letter of Appreciation from AMSC & Frontline Doctor Access to Prioritised PCR/RAT
Testing for Vulnerable Groups

The Board of Directors of Australasian Medical Services Coalition Ltd (AMSC) is writing to thank Douglass Hanly Moir managers and clinical staff for their extraordinary effort in caring for our patients. In times of unprecedented chaos, we appreciate the minimal availability of PCR testing resources for COVID-19.

While we are going into the next phase of COVID management in 2022, we would like to suggest that DHM establishes a direct communication pathway with the GPs / non GP specialists to prioritise and make PCR testing available to vulnerable or socially disadvantaged patients highly suspicious of having COVID-19.

In the past week, our obstetrician member A/Prof Chua (also Chair of AMSC Board) had ten of his pregnant patients deemed at high risk of contracting COVID-19 but could not get PCR testing to confirm the diagnosis. With the help of DHM Liaison Officer Ms Caroline Smith (who was on leave at the time), these ten patients could have their PCR tests delivered to and collected from their homes the following day. ALL THESE PCR TEST RESULTS WERE POSITIVE, illustrating the effectiveness of a triage system.

The patients were all very appreciative of the extraordinary effort by DHM. Because of such exemplary dedication and definitive action by DHM, the BOD of AMSC made a unanimous decision to write this letter, which will also be distributed to all AMSC members and other primary care workers. We think this acknowledgement of appreciation will “shine an encouraging light” on your staff, as well as give hope to our frontline doctors that help is available for high risk and vulnerable patients.

We would also like to propose that DHM have a formalised channel to allow frontline doctors to access quick PCR tests for vulnerable patients deemed clinically high risk of being COVID-19 positive. This is especially so for vulnerable groups (including but not limited to the elderly, chronic disease sufferers, immunocompromised or pregnant individuals) who have symptoms of COVID-19 or have had a positive rapid antigen test (RAT).

Equity of care is one of the core values of AMSC. Allowing vulnerable groups to access timely healthcare will aid the public health system treat them before acute clinical deterioration. We think your pathology lab and our frontline doctors can work together to help the Department of Health develop a triage system that allows testing to be done most productively and efficiently, akin to a home pathology service but for COVID-19 testing. Suppose patients can get triaged by their usual GPs / non GP specialists and tested through their designated pathology labs. In that case, results can also be reflected in their health records, promoting continuity of care in the new COVID-19 norm.

To initiate, we are happy to meet with your staff to move this forward.

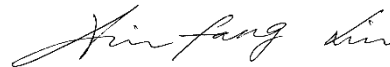
Kind Regards,



A/Prof Seng Chua

FRANZCOG

Chair, Board of Directors



Dr. Xiufang (Vivian) Liu

FRACGP

President, Executive Committee