

prevailing chronic medical conditions such as lung disease, heart failure, cancer, cerebrovascular disease, renal disease, diabetes, liver disease and immunocompromising conditions and pregnancy are risk factors for developing severe illness. Management includes implementation of prevention and control measures and supportive therapy to manage the complications, together with advanced organ support.⁵⁷

Corticosteroids must be avoided unless specified for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbation or septic shock, as it is likely to prolong viral replication as detected in MERS-CoV patients.⁵⁸

12 EARLY SUPPORTIVE THERAPY AND MONITORING

Management of patients with suspected or documented COVID-19 consists of ensuring appropriate infection control and supportive care. WHO and the CDC posted clinical guidance for COVID-19.⁵⁹

Immediate therapy of add-on oxygen must be started for patients with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) and respiratory