

*Disclaimer: We kindly ask to acknowledge that due to the diverse and heterogeneous nature of the questions and dynamic situations they pertain to, some of the information might be incomplete or only correct for the time being. Thus, please consider the date and date of last update with the below information. All available information was provided by a country representative from the PHIRI network during or in connection to the respective meeting.*

Date: 24.04.2023

Table 1: Country responses: Treatment of long Covid patients

<p><b>Country</b></p>	<p><b>Topic: Treatment of long Covid patients</b>  <b>In order to keep up with this topic, we would kindly ask for a follow-up to REF 14 (07/06/21):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How does your country organise the physical and psychological treatment of long COVID patients, especially with regard to Mental Health?</b></li> <li>• <b>Are there specialized clinics/departments/centres in place or are specialized clinics/departments/centres currently being developed?</b>  <b>If so, please provide details, such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Which professional groups (specialists, nurses, psychologists, ...) and disciplines are involved?</b></li> <li>- <b>How can individuals access the clinics (walk-in, referral ...)?</b></li> <li>- <b>Are the clinics stand-alone entities or part of larger institutions such as hospitals or primary care centres?</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Are there specific pathways in the treatment of children and youths established?</b>  <b>If so, please provide details, such as:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Is there a publicly funded facility for parents to obtain publicly funded long Covid consultations with specialised physicians?</b></li> <li>- <b>Have any day care centres been set up for children affected by long Covid?</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Is there any available data on waiting times or information on bridging measures during the waiting period for a specialized programme?</b></li> <li>• <b>Is there any legal protection or special support for employees (not to get terminated or pressured, e.g. helpline) in the process of diagnosis-finding?</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been no update for Austria since the last REF on long Covid management (#45, see results there).  The “health supply pathway” for Long COVID care is still in place (<a href="https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:f239bc19-ae06-48a9-a65f-d116c05dafa/Versorgungspfad_Long_COVID.png">https://www.sozialministerium.at/dam/jcr:f239bc19-ae06-48a9-a65f-d116c05dafa/Versorgungspfad_Long_COVID.png</a>)  (As a short recap, it foresees primary care as the first point of contact for patients suspected of suffering Long COVID. Further clarification in special care services, such as special outpatient clinics or health centres of the Austrian health insurance fund, may be necessary in complex cases. After treatment of a COVID-19 disease in a hospital, as well as after treatment at home, inpatient or outpatient rehabilitation is arranged, depending on the severity and symptoms of the disease.)  The April 2022 Austrian report on Long COVID, its Problems and Challenges in care was released in April 2023, but only in German: <a href="https://jasmin.goeg.at/2283/1/Long%20COVID_Ergebnisbericht_Final_bf.pdf">https://jasmin.goeg.at/2283/1/Long%20COVID_Ergebnisbericht_Final_bf.pdf</a>  It concludes that, since information on epidemiology, symptoms, duration of the disease, influencing factors, etc. is not yet sufficiently available, a continuous development process for dealing with Long COVID is necessary. There is an optimisation potential primarily in existing structures and services as well as in close cooperation between various stakeholders from the fields of health, social work, education and self-advocacy.  Unfortunately, data for mental health specific supplies due to long Covid is still missing.</li> <li>• In 5 out of 9 provinces there are special post/long covid outpatient clinics affiliated to university and provincial hospitals (3 in Vienna (2 public and 1 private), 1 in Linz, 1 in Graz, 1 in Klagenfurt):  Medical University Vienna – Neurologie Post/Long Covid Spezialambulanz  Barmherzige Schwestern Vienna – ambulantes psychosomatisches Reha-Programm  Evangelisches Krankenhaus Wien – Neuro-Covid-Ambulanz –  Neuromed Campus Linz KUK Neurologie 1– Post/Long Covid Ambulanz  LKH Graz II Standort Enzenbach – Long Covid pulmologische Ambulanz</li> </ul>



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	<p>Klinikum Klagenfurt am Wörthersee – Pulmologie – Post/Long Covid Ambulanz  See <a href="https://www.longcovidustria.at/wichtige-anlaufstellen-fuer-betroffene">https://www.longcovidustria.at/wichtige-anlaufstellen-fuer-betroffene</a>  We do not know of special public long Covid-19 consultation hours as in Germany or Switzerland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The health supply pathway does not differentiate between children, adolescents and adults. There are also no special Long/Post-Covid outpatient clinics affiliated to children's hospitals.  There is a growing number of self-help groups, private initiatives and associations, some of which are publicly funded, among which some were initiated for affected children and their parents and relatives (e.g. Long Covid Kids - Austria (LCK-AT)).</li> <li>• According to unofficial informations in the Tyrol and Vorarlberg 6-7 weeks.</li> <li>• Anyone who cannot perform their job due to Long Covid symptoms has the legal right to take sick leave, as with all other illnesses or accidents. However, sick leave does not generally protect you from termination.  But if your sick leave due to long Covid is expected to last longer than 6 months, it could be considered a "disability." In this case, individuals would be protected from discrimination. That means they would not be allowed to be terminated because of the disability. However, there are no court decisions yet on whether a Long Covid condition constitutes a disability.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p>More information: <a href="https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/maladies/Pages/post-covid-remboursement-soins-1re-ligne-symptomes-persistants.aspx#Dur%C3%A9e%20de%20cette%20convention%20Post-COVID-19%20?">https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/maladies/Pages/post-covid-remboursement-soins-1re-ligne-symptomes-persistants.aspx#Dur%C3%A9e de cette convention Post-COVID-19 ?</a>  Impact of Long COVID in Belgium: <a href="https://www.kce.fgov.be/sites/default/files/2021-11/KCE_344C_Long_Covid_Short_report.pdf">https://www.kce.fgov.be/sites/default/files/2021-11/KCE_344C_Long_Covid_Short_report.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belgium implemented a convention to organise and cover the costs related to the care of long COVID, mainly for the first line of care (Physiotherapy, Speech therapy, Psychological care, dietetics, occupational therapy). If the patient needs more than one care provider, a care coordinator is also appointed. More info: <a href="https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/maladies/Pages/post-covid-remboursement-soins-1re-ligne-symptomes-persistants.aspx">https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/maladies/Pages/post-covid-remboursement-soins-1re-ligne-symptomes-persistants.aspx</a> They can then refer you to one or more other healthcare providers.  Two types of treatment are possible depending on the needs of the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A monodisciplinary treatment if you need a single healthcare provider (speech therapist, physiotherapist, psychologist)</li> <li>- Multidisciplinary treatment if you need more than one provider (physiotherapist, speech therapist, psychologist, neuropsychologist, dietitian and/or occupational therapist). A care coordinator may be appointed within the team.</li> </ul> Psychological treatment: <a href="https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/par-mutualite/sante-mentale/Pages/soins-psychologiques-1religne-specialises-rembourses-via-reseaux-sante-mentale.aspx#Quels%20types%20de%20soins%20psychologiques%20remboursons-nous%20?">https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/par-mutualite/sante-mentale/Pages/soins-psychologiques-1religne-specialises-rembourses-via-reseaux-sante-mentale.aspx#Quels types de soins psychologiques remboursons-nous ?</a></li> <li>• There are no specialized clinics.</li> <li>• Specialized psychological care for children and young adults until 23 includes few more sessions compared to older adults. More information on treatment for children can be found on this link: <a href="https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/par-mutualite/sante-mentale/Pages/soins-psychologiques-1religne-specialises-rembourses-via-reseaux-sante-mentale.aspx">https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/par-mutualite/sante-mentale/Pages/soins-psychologiques-1religne-specialises-rembourses-via-reseaux-sante-mentale.aspx</a></li> <li>• Not to our knowledge, but this data will be available when data from insurers on long COVID care is available and analyzed. It mainly depends on the INAMI: <a href="https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/maladies/Pages/post-covid-remboursement-soins-1re-ligne-symptomes-persistants.aspx">https://www.inami.fgov.be/fr/themes/cout-remboursement/maladies/Pages/post-covid-remboursement-soins-1re-ligne-symptomes-persistants.aspx</a></li> <li>• Incapacity for work due to long COVID is covered by social security yes (as other diseases), see here: <a href="https://fedris.be/fr/FAQ-Covid-19#:~:text=Les%20travailleurs%20salari%C3%A9s%20atteints%20de,l'activit%C3%A9%20professionnelle%20%C3%A0%20risque">https://fedris.be/fr/FAQ-Covid-19#:~:text=Les%20travailleurs%20salari%C3%A9s%20atteints%20de,l'activit%C3%A9%20professionnelle%20%C3%A0%20risque</a></li> </ul> <p>Is long COVID covered by the occupational disease plan?  With regard to periods of temporary incapacity for work and health care, these may be covered, without limit, as long as the victim provides conclusive medical evidence, making it possible to objectify the symptoms mentioned and to relate to Covid-19, recognized as an occupational disease. It is therefore important that the victim sends Fedris all the medical reports relating to the follow-up examinations that he undergoes as well as the certificates of extension of incapacity for work. These elements will be assessed by Fedris doctors and if the link is established with Covid-19, health care and periods of incapacity for work will be covered.</p>



	<p>With regard to Covid-19, as it is a new disease, the Fedris Scientific Council and its 'biological agents' medical commission closely follow scientific developments and refine the criteria to be taken whenever necessary. With regard more specifically to long Covid-19, an internal working group, made up of doctors, is currently looking into the question in order to define guidelines. Fedris will not fail to communicate on this subject, via its website, as soon as possible.</p>
<b>Estonia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System of mental health is reorganizing. Different level physical and mental services are integrated and delivered to all age groups. More attention is paid to supporting mental health of children and parents. The family doctor, together with the team, is the first point of contact for all problems of the patients, including mental health problems. FDs make the first screening and diagnostics and provide the treatment of most conditions as well as coordinate patient care in the whole healthcare system. Family doctors have a special therapy fund from which they can finance the services of a clinical psychologist and physiotherapist.</li> <li>• There is no specialized COVID clinics. Mainly family doctors are responsible for long COVID treatment. Complicated patients are referred by FDs to specialists in regional and central hospitals. All needed specialists are involved, mainly: cardiologists, pulmonologists, neurologists, psychologists, and physiotherapists.</li> <li>• A family doctor and his/her team are mainly responsible for the treatment: a family nurse, a physiotherapist and a clinical psychologist. The patients, including children and youths, have free access to family practices and PHC centres. If necessary, the family doctors organize the following help and refer the child or young person to the necessary specialist. Unfortunately, there are currently few specialists dealing with children's mental health and waiting lists are long. Children are supported also by school psychologists and also youth Center specialists. MIS-C children are transferred to regional hospital, treated by multidisciplinary team and remain monitored by a children cardiologist.</li> <li>• There is no data available.</li> <li>• There is no legal protection.</li> </ul>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>The treatment of long COVID patients is part of our normal health care system. In Helsinki University Hospital District has a special outpatient clinic for long COVID (<a href="https://www.hus.fi/en/hospitals-and-other-units/outpatient-clinic-long-term-effects-covid-19-paciuksenkatu">https://www.hus.fi/en/hospitals-and-other-units/outpatient-clinic-long-term-effects-covid-19-paciuksenkatu</a>).</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national scientific medical guideline for the diagnosis and treatment of Long COVID is available as an updated version with input from various scientific medical associations in Germany <a href="https://register.awmf.org/assets/guidelines/020-027I_S1_Post_COVID_Long_COVID_2022-08.pdf">https://register.awmf.org/assets/guidelines/020-027I_S1_Post_COVID_Long_COVID_2022-08.pdf</a> The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) will be mandated to work out a national guideline for an interdisciplinary, coordinated and structured health care for persons with Long COVID until the end of year 2023 <a href="https://www.aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/138650/G-BA-soll-Behandlungswege-fuer-Long-COVID-ausarbeiten">https://www.aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/138650/G-BA-soll-Behandlungswege-fuer-Long-COVID-ausarbeiten</a></li> <li>• Yes, there are interdisciplinary (i.e. pneumology, psychiatry, cardiology, neuroimmunology) outpatient centers and clinics for people with Long COVID. Some of them stand-alone others are part of larger institutions or hospitals. Long COVID outpatient clinics and competence centers in Germany can be found through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Long COVID Initiative website where all Long COVID outpatient clinics as well as medical practices offering special Long COVID consultations in Germany for adults and for children are listed. <a href="https://longcoviddeutschland.org/ambulanzen/">https://longcoviddeutschland.org/ambulanzen/</a> <a href="https://longcoviddeutschland.org/sprechstunden/">https://longcoviddeutschland.org/sprechstunden/</a></li> <li>- On the website of health insurance companies</li> <li>- Family doctors often know special clinics for Long COVID in the region and can provide information</li> <li>- The German Hospital Directory offers a search function where affected persons can filter specifically according to their region and with keywords (i.e. Long or Post COVID) find corresponding hospitals <a href="https://www.deutsches-krankenhaus-verzeichnis.de/app/suche">https://www.deutsches-krankenhaus-verzeichnis.de/app/suche</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Other information points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Long COVID medical association was founded as an initiative of the Federal Ministry of Health and consists of experts from various disciplines. On their website, they provide current information and scientific publications related to Long COVID. <a href="https://long-covid-verband.de/">https://long-covid-verband.de/</a></li> <li>- The Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft für Rehabilitation e. V. (BAR) provides information on the topic of rehabilitation in the treatment of Long COVID. <a href="https://www.bar-frankfurt.de/">https://www.bar-frankfurt.de/</a></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Confederation of German Employers' Associations (Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände e.V.) provides information on Long and Post COVID for employers. <a href="https://arbeitsgeber.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/bda-arbeitsgeber-covid_19-informationen_zu_long_covid-2022_04_13.pdf">https://arbeitsgeber.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/bda-arbeitsgeber-covid_19-informationen_zu_long_covid-2022_04_13.pdf</a></li> <li>- The accident insurance funds and employers' liability insurance associations (UK/BG) help those affected if Long COVID has been recognized as an occupational disease or accident at work in their case. <a href="https://www.dguv.de/post-covid/index.jsp">https://www.dguv.de/post-covid/index.jsp</a></li> <li>- The German Disabled Sports Association (DBS) e.V. offers various sports programs to those affected by Long COVID. This also includes rehabilitation sports. <a href="https://www.dbs-npc.de/">https://www.dbs-npc.de/</a></li> <li>- The German Hospital Association (DKG) helps to find suitable care offers. <a href="https://www.dkgev.de/">https://www.dkgev.de/</a></li> <li>- The German Pension Insurance (Deutsche Rentenversicherung) offers rehabilitation services to those affected. <a href="https://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de/DRV/DE/Home/Post-Covid-Themenseite/Post_Covid_node.html">https://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de/DRV/DE/Home/Post-Covid-Themenseite/Post_Covid_node.html</a></li> <li>- The National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (KBV) offers information on its website about Long COVID for both sufferers and professionals. Possible support services can also be found here. <a href="https://www.kbv.de/html/themen_57780.php">https://www.kbv.de/html/themen_57780.php</a></li> <li>- The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) provides all current information about the COVID-19 virus on its website, including frequently asked questions about Long COVID. <a href="https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Long-COVID/Inhalt-gesamt.html">https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Long-COVID/Inhalt-gesamt.html</a></li> <li>• Symptomatic therapy is recommended until established/evidence-based treatment option is available (a few options to participate in treatment studies are available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Long COVID consultations in primary care as well as in secondary and tertiary medical structure are funded by German health insurance (optimization to align patient needs and intensive costs are ongoing)</li> <li>- To our knowledge not. At the moment, possibilities regarding certain forms of schooling are being inquired via the Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, among others.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Specialized programmes as well as waiting times etc show high variability in Germany due to the federal state organization. Information about them are not yet centralized.</li> <li>• Not specialized for long/post-COVID yet, however equivalent to all other processes of diagnosis-finding for all diseases</li> </ul> <p>S2k-Leitlinie "Diagnostik und Therapie von Long COVID im Kinders- und Jugendalter" (in progress, planned release: 31.12.2023: 31.12.2023)  <a href="https://www.awmf.org/service/awmf-aktuell/diagnostik-und-therapie-von-long-covid-im-kinders-und-jugendalter">https://www.awmf.org/service/awmf-aktuell/diagnostik-und-therapie-von-long-covid-im-kinders-und-jugendalter</a>  The goal is to summarize the current evidence for diagnosis and treatment of Long COVID in children and adolescents and to develop practice-oriented, graded recommendations for diagnosis and treatment of Long COVID in children and adolescents in order to improve the care of this patient group and knowledge of the clinical picture.</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>In Hungary some institutions have created special Covid teams dedicated to the long Covid problem. The members are mainly specialists from 4 different fields (internal medicine, neurology, cardiology, pulmonology) and specifically for the treatment of complications associated with Coronavirus infection. In some cases the complex screening can involve even more specialist from different fields. Some children's hospitals responded to the situation that the epidemic service is unfortunately not available for patients under the age of 18 and in 2021 the first outpatient clinic dedicated to minors was opened. Since then many such outpatient clinics were opened, also in the rural areas. In Hungary there is no dedicated helpline for Covid.</p>
<b>Ireland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to the need to provide follow-up care and support for patients experiencing persistent symptoms of Covid-19, the HSE launched its Interim Model of Care (MoC) for Long Covid in September 2021. The MoC provides a framework for how these services should be designed and delivered, with a focus on a three-tiered approach to service delivery, ranging from GP services, to community-led interventions to specialist consultant-led clinics. Mental health supports and services are a part of each of tier of the MoC, including advice and resources on getting back to post infection lifestyle and access to psychology and psychiatry supports.</li> <li>• Many patients with symptoms of long Covid are managed by GPs through advice, education and self-management supports. For some patients however, further assessment and additional supports may be required. The Model of Care therefore recommended the development of a number of specialist clinics. The aim of post-acute and long Covid clinics is to provide access to specialist assessment, diagnostics and treatment planning for patients with persistent symptoms following acute Covid-19 infection. These are accessed via GP referral and based in existing hospital groups.</li> </ul>



Specialist assessment will encompass a full clinical history and consideration of any comorbidities, a comprehensive screen of current symptoms and the impact of these symptoms on patients' functional independence, normal roles, ADLs, hobbies and social activities. It will also include referral to diagnostics such as chest x-ray, ECG, pulmonary function tests, holter monitors, ECHO and CT thorax as clinically indicated. Interventions will include optimisation of any associated abnormalities and underlying conditions that are diagnosed through the clinical assessment and investigations, and referral to other specialities as indicated. Interventions may also include referral to allied health therapists and psychology for further assessment and support in relation to symptom management and strategies to support ongoing recovery. Patients may be reviewed by various health professionals, including occupational therapy and physiotherapy, within the clinic, to ensure that their medical, physical, cognitive and psychological symptoms have been managed and optimised, at which point they can be discharged back to the care of their GP.

GPs will need to refer patients with suspected neurological symptoms to their local long Covid clinic to ensure any additional investigations or other treatments are carried out. The neurology clinic, located at Saint James's Hospital (SJH), will provide further assessment, treatment planning and optimisation of patients who are experiencing persistent neurological symptoms associated with long Covid. Services in this clinic have expanded to also treat those with neurological symptoms post-vaccine. This clinic will be led by and governed by a consultant neurologist; however, patients with pre-existing neurological conditions should remain with their primary neurologist.

To date, all six Long COVID clinics, and six out of eight Post Acute clinics have been established. The HSE is working with Letterkenny University Hospital and Limerick University Hospital to overcome their recruitment challenges and implement their dedicated clinics.

- Access to Post Acute and Long COVID is limited to those who are 16 years of age or older. Available evidence supports the provision of care to children younger than 16 years of age by their GPs and if necessary, by general paediatricians, who work in multi-disciplinary teams and have specialist teams to refer to e.g. paediatric respiratory, neurology etc. In a [recent review](#) by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), commissioned to evaluate and further inform the development of both adult and paediatric Long COVID services, it was outlined that the model of care in Ireland is broadly consistent with those outlined internationally.

The National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and the National Clinical Advisors and Group Leads (NCAGL) for children and young people will continue to work closely with the HSE Long-Covid team to review evidence and support access to care.

- Below is the latest available breakdown of waiting times per operational clinic:

	Clinic	Clinic type	Average time from referral to new patient review
Mar-23	University Hospital Limerick	Long COVID	2-3 months
Mar-23	Tallaght University Hospital Dublin	Combined	5 months
Mar-23	Beaumont Hospital	Long COVID	4.3 months
Mar-23	St Vincent's Hospital Dublin	Long COVID	3-6 months (routine) 0-4 weeks (urgent)
Mar-23	Mater Misericordiae University	Post Acute	1 month
Mar-23	St James's Hospital Dublin	Combined	2.8 months



	Mar-23	Galway University Hospital	Combined	Urgent patients are booked to next clinic. 3.2 months days average time from referral to new patient review
	Mar-23	Connolly Hospital	Post Acute	6 months
	<p>Sites that do not have a dedicated specialist clinic are currently managing and treating patients through general infectious disease and respiratory clinics. It is anticipated that these remaining clinics will become operational over the coming months as resourcing is assigned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSE employees waiting on a diagnosis of Long COVID will be covered by the standard provisions laid out in the normal organisation wide sickness policy.</li> </ul> <p>HSE employees have access to an Employee Assistance Programme, a confidential independent helpline to support with issues that may be personal or work-related, affecting job performance or home life. Further details are available at this link: <a href="https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/benefits-and-services/employee-assistance-programme-staff-counselling/">https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/benefits-and-services/employee-assistance-programme-staff-counselling/</a></p>			
<b>Italy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On December 2021, the Istituto Superiore di Sanità-ISS launched a project financed by the Center for Disease Prevention and Control-CCM of the Ministry of Health 'Analysis and response strategies to the long-term effects of the Covid-19 infection (Long-Covid)', with the aim of monitoring the pathology Long-Covid, which develops following the SARS-CoV-2 infection, of studying the characteristics and dimensions of the phenomenon and above all of standardising the treatment approach of patients (in English: <a href="https://www.iss.it/en/long-covid-obiettivi-progetto">https://www.iss.it/en/long-covid-obiettivi-progetto</a>; in Italian language: <a href="https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/File+centri+censimento+per+sito+14+giugno.pdf/4761fafa-e20e-4178-a597-061facbd3052?t=1655214298429">https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/File+centri+censimento+per+sito+14+giugno.pdf/4761fafa-e20e-4178-a597-061facbd3052?t=1655214298429</a>)</li> <li>Overall the country, 113 Long Covid centers were created in all the Italian Regions, except for 2 Regions: Valle d'Aosta and Basilicata. Specialised clinics/departments/centres were created, as part of larger institutions such as hospitals or primary care centres in hospitals (clinics, Local Health Units, ambulatories, health organizations). A map reporting all the Long Covid centers is available at the following link: <a href="https://www.iss.it/en/long-covid-mappa-dei-centri-regionali/">https://www.iss.it/en/long-covid-mappa-dei-centri-regionali/</a> (in English language); a list of all the available centers is downloadable at the following link: <a href="https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/File+centri+censimento+per+sito+14+giugno.pdf/4761fafa-e20e-4178-a597-061facbd3052?t=1655214298429">https://www.iss.it/documents/20126/0/File+centri+censimento+per+sito+14+giugno.pdf/4761fafa-e20e-4178-a597-061facbd3052?t=1655214298429</a> (in Italian language);</li> <li>All the Long Covid centers are part of the National Health System and are publicly funded, including facilities for parents and Long Covid consultations with specialists. For each Long Covid center, the name of the structure, the name of the center, the coordinator, the e-mail address to contact the center, the type of patients followed, whether adults, pediatrics or adults and pediatrics together, are specified; in addition, the type of assistance is also provided, whether outpatient, hospitalization or day hospital.</li> <li>It is possible to check the waiting time for each Health Unit/Care Service/Hospital of a specific Region (in Italian language <a href="https://www.portaletrasparenzaservizisanitari.it/applicazionestructure/tempi-di-attesa">https://www.portaletrasparenzaservizisanitari.it/applicazionestructure/tempi-di-attesa</a>). In addition, the Ministry of Health has created a 'National Observatory on Waiting Lists': <a href="https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/listeAttesa/dettaglioContenutiListeAttesa.jsp?id=5235&amp;area=listeAttesa&amp;menu=vuoto">https://www.salute.gov.it/portale/listeAttesa/dettaglioContenutiListeAttesa.jsp?id=5235&amp;area=listeAttesa&amp;menu=vuoto</a> (in Italian language).</li> <li>At the moment, any legal protection or special support for employees (not to get terminated or pressured, e.g. helpline) in the process of diagnosis-finding has been settled up.</li> </ul>			
<b>Norway</b>	<p>The main principle in the advice is that patients are followed up by their GP, and that patients in need of rehabilitation after a covid-19 illness must follow normal referral routines and rehabilitation procedures. The GP follows ordinary routines with possible assistance from other interdisciplinary personnel in the municipality and, if necessary, referral to the specialist health service.</p> <p>The severity of disease symptoms and functional problems will vary from patient to patient, and the rehabilitation offer must therefore be adapted to the individual's needs. Rehabilitation can take place in both specialist and/or primary healthcare. Assistance can also be provided at home using welfare technology and digital tools.</p>			



	<p>It is important to have a holistic (biopsychosocial) approach to the patient in the course of rehabilitation after covid-19 disease. The patient's own goals and planned measures must be seen in the context of the overall life situation.</p> <p>There is a separate guide on COVID19 where rehabilitation is included as a separate chapter:  <a href="https://www.helseidirektoratet.no/veiledere/koronavirus/Sen%C3%B8lger-og-rehabilitering-etter-covid-19">https://www.helseidirektoratet.no/veiledere/koronavirus/Sen%C3%B8lger-og-rehabilitering-etter-covid-19</a></p>
<b>Romania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is part of routine NHS care. Some organisations have set up specialist clinics but not all. There are no central mandates.</li> <li>• Yes, but only in some places where local NHS organisations plan such services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is organized by respiratory doctors.</li> <li>- With a referral from the family doctor</li> <li>- Part of hospitals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All NHS care is free. There are no day care centres for affected children.</li> <li>• There is no data available.</li> <li>• No.</li> </ul>
<b>Serbia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Serbia, there are no specialized clinics for mental health aspects of long covid nor for children. The care is provided throughout regular healthcare system.</li> </ul>
<b>The Netherlands</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 17 July 2020 the government has arranged an extra financed option for patients with LongCovid (independently from their health insurance): they can get physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dietitian and/or speech therapy for 6 months (physiotherapy max 50 treatments, occupational therapy max 10 hours, dietitian max 7 hours). And if their GP or specialist conclude it's indicated, they can do the same for another 6 months. There is a discussion going on whether treatment in a rehabilitation clinic (multidisciplinary) should be financed for patients with LongCovid, because health insurance companies claim there is not enough scientific evidence of added value. In the meantime some clinics still treat patients with longCovid and some stopped. Regarding mental health/psychological treatment: this is as regular health care is organised (so no specific arrangements for LongCovid): every GP has an assistant on mental health, who gives guidance and does screening on anxiety problems or (major) depressions that need specialised treatment. If patients need more, they can be referred to a psychologist or psychiatrist (in regular care). There are also a lot of coaches or other therapists, who claim to help/guide patients with LongCovid, but their quality of care is not clear. For existential/spiritual problems, we have spiritual counsellors (unfortunately only free of charge when you're over 50 years old, if your suffering from a terminal illness or if you're a caregiver for someone with a terminal illness (so as part of palliative care). You don't need any referral for it.</li> <li>• In the Netherlands, we had a long discussion whether LongCovid belongs in primary care or in specialized clinics/centres, but currently steps are made to come to 5 expert centres (connected to 4 academic and 1 peripheral hospital), spread over the Netherlands (which form a network), to combine diagnostics, treatment as well as research. Patients could get there by referral of their GP. But from October 2020 there is a founding called "C-support" (funded by the government, department of health care) who gives advice and guidance to patients with LongCovid, in general (website/webinars) but also on individual cases/situation. On health issues, but also on financial/occupational (reintegration) issues. Furthermore C-support gives advice to (health) professionals and provide (refresher) courses.</li> <li>• As mentioned in the former answer, C-support provides this as well. To be clear: this is not a regular physical consultation, but C-support provides advice and guidance, in general and on individual cases/situation. In 1 academic hospital there is an outpatient multidisciplinary clinic for children with LongCovid. It is funded through health insurance.</li> <li>• There are no day care centres for affected children.</li> <li>• There is no data available.</li> </ul>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is part of routine NHS care. Some areas/organisations have set up specialist clinics but not all. There are no central mandates. See general advice: <a href="https://www.gov.wales/getting-support-recovery-covid-19-long-covid">https://www.gov.wales/getting-support-recovery-covid-19-long-covid</a></li> <li>• Yes, there are specialized clinics, but only in some places where local NHS organisations plan such services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generally organised by respiratory physicians and involved multi-disciplinary groups but not detail specification.</li> <li>- Referral from GPs are required for all outpatient services.</li> <li>- Part of hospitals</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In some places there are specific pathways in the treatment of children, but not most.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- All NHS care is free.</li><li>- Not aware of any.</li></ul></li><li>• Data on waiting times are not available for specific conditions but for general specialities.</li><li>• No specific legal protections for COVID.</li></ul> |
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