Supplementary material 1: Home isolation

All symptomatic patients presenting to the hospital and confirmed to have COVID-19 infection using reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) were screened for eligibility to be enrolled into the Home Isolation (HI) program.

**Criteria for HI:** Mandatory criteria for recruitment to the HI program included heart rate (HR) <110/min, Systolic Blood Pressure (SBP) >100 mm Hg, Respiratory rate (RR) <24/min and pulse oximetry SpO2 >94%. Other important pre-requisites for enrolment in the HI program were the availability of caretakers to provide food and a separate room with attached bathroom for the patient. Patients enrolled in the program were dispensed a “Home isolation kit” which contained basic items such as a pulse oximeter, thermometer, sanitizer and masks. They were taught the use of these monitors and educated on the measurement of their vital signs. All patients were monitored through tele-consultation twice a day by a designated healthcare worker (HCW) for 10 days or until hospitalization.

The home isolation criteria remained unchanged during both waves of the pandemic except during the initial 3 months during the first wave of the pandemic where government regulations mandated admission for ALL patients diagnosed to have COVID-19 infection.