Operational Changes at OU Medicine

Imaging Operational Plan for Suspected & Confirmed COVID-19 – Effective 03/20/2020

Inpatient Imaging Guidance

- Inpatients who have been admitted and are suspected of COVID-19 routine advanced imaging (CT, MRI, NM, US, etc.) may be delayed pending the results of COVID-19 testing.

- Urgent/emergent testing for underlying conditions, such as trauma and stroke, may be performed. Each facility will designate a room/system for performing advanced imaging on suspected or confirmed patients.

- If a patient is confirmed to have COVID-19, the referring physician must speak to the radiologist to discuss imaging options, risk/benefit, etc.

- The room for a confirmed COVID-19 case may be down up to 3 hours after procedure to allow for appropriate cleaning and access without PPE.
  - **Diagnostic X-Ray** – Diagnostic X-ray will be performed portable when possible to avoid patient transport.
  - **CT** – A designated scanner will be used when possible to minimize contamination and impacts on operations. OUMC will utilize the 2nd floor, north CT room for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients. This will minimize the impact on ED, Trauma, Stroke, and Interventional cases. Edmond will utilize the VCT. As part of the physician to physician call, Children’s will determine the impact of the only CT at TCH and options.
  - **Ultrasound** – Ultrasound will be performed portable when possible to avoid patient transport.
  - **MRI** – A designated magnet will be used when possible to minimize contamination and impacts on operations.
    - **OUMC**: will utilize the lower level north MRI (non-GEMS) for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients.
    - **Children’s**: will designate a magnet when a patient presents taking into account the types of patients on the schedule to best minimize impacts.
    - **Edmond**: As part of the physician to physician call, Edmond will determine the impact of the only MRI located in the facility.
Inpatient Imaging Guidance (Continued)

- **Nuclear Medicine** – A designated camera will be used when possible to minimize contamination and impacts on operations.
  - **OUMC**: will utilize the MG camera for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients when possible.
  - **Children’s**: will determine the camera as a patient presents depending upon the exam mix at the time and requirements of cameras.
  - **Edmond**: will use the MG camera when possible.
  - Additionally, no ventilation scans will be performed.

- **PET/CT** – PET/CT will require a physician to physician call for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 due to potential for poor uptake of radioisotope and uptake of infection potentially impacting exam quality.

Outpatient Imaging Guidance

**Rescheduling Non-Urgent Care**

- The American College of Radiology (ACR) fully supports and recommends compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance that [advises medical facilities to “reschedule non-urgent outpatient visits.”](https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/COVID-19-Radiology-Resources)
  - This includes non-urgent imaging and fluoroscopy procedures, including but not limited to:
    - Screening mammography
    - Lung cancer screening
    - Non-urgent computed tomography (CT)
    - Ultrasound
    - Plain film X-ray exams
    - Other non-emergent or elective radiologic and radiologically guided exams and procedures.
  - Radiologists should work with their referring physicians to review and reschedule such exams.
  - Resources:
Outpatient Imaging Guidance (Continued)

- All OUMC Outpatient Imaging will be done at OUPB/SCC/OUMC Clinic Building & be available for other sites although hours may change with patient need.
- OUMC Edmond & TCH will attempt to separate arrival of outpatients from the inpatient care
- Breast Health Network (BHN) will continue to provide the following services at minimum:
  - Continue diagnostic work ups -
    - Recent abnormal screening finding.
    - New lump, symptom.
    - Follow up for breast cancer patients less than 2 years.
  - Continue breast biopsy, fine needle aspiration, needle localization.
  - Continue Breast MRI for new cancer diagnosis only.

Each week by Friday, each facility will have a group review of the next week’s schedule to make sure the above recommendations are true and discuss with providers who requested imaging as necessary for outpatient care.

This will include the Chair or Vice Chair of Radiology and the Director of Imaging at each facility.

The Practice Directors for OU and OUCP or the CMO at Edmond will be involved as and if needed.

This review validation will be sent to the Hospital President by EOB each Friday.

*Guidelines issued from: Dr. Alleman, Dr. Wagner, Dr. Salinas, Dr. Teague, Dr. Gessouroun, Dr. Mantor, Dr. Puckett, Kris Gose, Lisa Wilson, Jon Hayes and Tracy Cothran*