Surgeries & Procedures: COVID-19 Case Postponement Plan

Updated 03/21/2020

In an effort to protect and mitigate the exposure of our patients and providers as well as to be good steward of enterprise resources, OU Medicine will suspend the scheduling of some surgeries and procedures.

- The scheduling of non-urgent, elective procedures should be postponed through April 27th at OUMC, OUMC Edmond and The Children’s Hospital.

- We will also encourage any elective outpatient procedures to be done at the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) for the current time.

This action is deemed necessary for the conservation of resources vital to patient care. These resources include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Personal protective equipment
- Medical supplies
- Maintain essential staffing levels necessary to appropriate and timely care.

The ASC provides the best location for patients with elective procedures to decrease risk of exposure in the inpatient environment. This action has now been recommended by the American College of Surgeons, the Surgeon General and other professional resources.

- Time-sensitive cases should not be delayed unless conditions within the facilities necessitate further restrictions.
- Surgeons and their service leaders should determine those conditions that require timely treatment to achieve optimal outcomes.
- These cases should continue in the most appropriate facility at routine standard of care intervals.
- In response to constant change in this dynamic environment, evaluation of the most current information is ongoing.
Surgeries & Procedures: COVID-19 Case Postponement Plan (Continued)

While enterprise leaders express a preference for communication to take place between the attending surgeon or provider and the patient, there may be reasons why this approach is not possible or ideal. Each area should determine how the needs of the patient and clinical team are best served.

The Surgery/Procedure schedule will be reviewed by each facility’s Infection Prevention (IP) and Operating Room (OR) Medical Directors. Any feedback on plan will be communicated to the Provider.

Please work with your Hospital Director Partner and schedulers to adjust schedules and we will help facilitate movement to the ASC as needed. We appreciate your partnership in trying to timely take care of patients while also leading the way in maintaining the safety of our community and resources.

We are also working diligently across the enterprise to offer virtual options for patients in our ambulatory settings. More information will be coming about that opportunity.
# Elective Surgery Acuity Scale (ESAS)

Reprinted with permission: Sameer Siddiqui, MD, FACS, St. Louis University

Added 03/21/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tiers/Description</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tier 1a            | Low acuity surgery/healthy patient. Outpatient surgery, not life threatening illness | • HOPD  
• ASC  
• Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census. | • Carpal tunnel release  
• Penile prosthesis  
• EGD  
• Colonoscopy | Postpone surgery or perform at ASC |
| Tier 1b            | Low acuity surgery/unhealthy patient | • HOPD  
• ASC  
• Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census. | | Postpone surgery or perform at ASC |
| Tier 2a            | Intermediate acuity surgery/healthy patient. | • HOPD  
• ASC  
• Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census. | • Low risk cancer  
• Non-urgent spine  
• Ureteral colic | Postpone surgery if possible or consider ASC |
| Tier 2b            | Intermediate acuity surgery/unhealthy | • HOPD  
• ASC  
• Hospital with low/no COVID-19 census. | | Postpone surgery if possible or consider ASC |
| Tier 3a            | High acuity surgery/healthy patient | Hospital | • Most cancers  
• Highly symptomatic patients | Do NOT postpone |
| Tier 3b            | High acuity surgery/unhealthy patient | Hospital | Do NOT postpone |

HOPD – Hospital Outpatient Department  
ASC – Ambulatory Surgery Center