

## **SURGICAL ACTIVITY**

The surgical activity of our Center has been authorized to re-start at our Hospital effective Monday May 18<sup>th</sup>.

This decision has been taken in the face of the current COVID data and trends from the NY Metropolitan area.

Nobody can predict the future, and anything could change, if the second wave hits hard and early, but the current available information was reassuring enough for the leadership of our Health System to decide this way.

For the patients who need to be re-scheduled after the COVID cancellations:

- Some insurances do not need to issue a separate and new authorization for the re-scheduled surgery
- Other insurances require to restart the authorization process from scratch

For the time being, no companions are allowed to stay at the bedside of ADULT patients, while one parent will be allowed in the case of PEDIATRIC patients.

We anticipate that this rule will be lifted relatively soon.

You will obviously have to factor in other variables affecting your planning, including Travel and Lodging.

Prior to surgery, the patients will have to undergo a screening process.

The steps of this process are listed below.

The document below was initially prepared for Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery patients but has been extended to patients undergoing Elective Surgery.

## **Pre procedure COVID-19 Swabbing Protocol for Outpatients and Ambulatory Surgery Patients**

1. All patients receiving an invasive procedure will need to receive a COVID NP swab two days before procedure.
2. The home scheduling department is responsible for scheduling the NP swab test in the OPTIMUM system. Patients are given a specific appointment time to arrive.
3. The home department is responsible for assuring that the order for the test is entered into the EMR no later than the day before the test is to be performed
4. Test results will be available in the Allscript Sunrise EMR when the test is resulted. Test results are also sent to the ordering practitioner.
5. The COVID status of the patient will be checked the day before the procedure during the chart review process. Each department will determine the best internal workflow for this review and test result reporting.
6. Patients will be called the afternoon before their scheduled procedure by the home department. They will be given their test result and ask the standard COVID questions and will be asked to verify that they have self quarantined since the test was taken.
7. Patients with a positive COVID test will be cancelled and rescheduled in no less than 15 days if they are afebrile for 72 hours and symptoms are resolving. These patients do **NOT** need to submit to another COVID NP swab.
8. If a patient test positive and the attending physicians wants to proceed with scheduled procedure, the chief of the division must review and approve the procedure.

### **Tent Process:**

1. The schedule will be reviewed the day before to identify the volume of patients scheduled
2. The NP will verify that an order has been entered for each patient scheduled. The NP will either call the attending physician for the order or enter the order into the EMR.
3. The Patient registration department will automatically active the patients schedule for that day sometime after midnight and prepare the face sheet and labels.
4. Patients will arrive at their appointment time at the Washington Ave. parking lot and follow the signs to drive through the tent. Patients remain in their cars.
5. Patients are identified and assessed for symptoms of illness.
6. The nurse will obtain the NP swab, label the specimen bag the specimen according to the policy and send it to the lab.
7. Patients will be given written and verbal instruction to self-quarantine up until the time they report for the procedure.

**Process for Perioperative Services:**

1. Patient is scheduled for a procedure-involving anesthesia. If procedure requires Pre-Surgical Evaluation a PSE visit will be scheduled.
2. Patient will report to PSE at the scheduled time one week prior to surgery. The NP will perform the H&P, draw COVID antibody test and any other lab test that are indicated.
3. The PSE department will schedule the patient for a COVID NP swab two days prior to the scheduled procedure.
4. The NP will enter the order for the NP swab and follow up on the results the day prior to the scheduled surgery.
5. During the chart review process, the results of the antibody test as well as the NP test will be on the chart. The home-booking department will be notified that the patient test is positive and the surgeon will be notified. The procedure will be cancelled.
6. If the patient does not have a resulted test by the time of the final schedule, the surgeon will be notified, a follow up and search of the test results will be made and if the results cannot be found, the case will be moved to the end of the day.
7. If the patient fails to keep the NP swab appointment two days prior to the surgery, the surgery/procedure will be cancelled. No patient will remain on the final OR schedule if they have not tested as required.
8. Procedures that do not require a PSE (pain management, Endoscopy and ophthalmic procedures) will be scheduled for a NP swab test two days prior to the procedure by the home-booking department.
9. The home department will be responsible for assuring the test is ordered in the EMR
10. The home department will be responsible for reviewing the test results the day prior to the procedure.