

Dear Colleagues,

The recommendations below are sent on behalf of Dr. Bane and the physician leadership of the Premier Health Oncology Institute.

As cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emerge and spread in Southwest Ohio, it's important to protect our patients by limiting potential risk for exposure. We are conferring with MD Anderson for standard guidance on treatment of cancer patients during this pandemic.

We are following ASCO guidelines for chemo treatments and those guidelines are at the following [link](#) for your reference. We are also monitoring the MD Anderson literature and Connect site to ensure we stay in sync with international best practice as it emerges.

The following recommendations were made as it relates to patient appointments.

Reschedule non-essential appointments for patients that are high risk for COVID-19 complications 6-8 weeks out with the goal to limit exposure for patients.

However, it is nearly impossible for the oncology patient population to go several weeks without close monitoring. In addition, oncology patients represent a high-risk group and are more susceptible to infections such as flu or 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). For this reason, we are proposing the following regarding regularly scheduled follow ups. These recommendations do not apply to patients who have active medical problems or require face to face evaluation

- Oncology patients should complete their scans prior to their appointment if possible.
 - Ideally this should be completed 1-2 days prior.
- The imaging will be reviewed by involved physicians and radiologist.
- If the imaging is stable:
 - Follow up appointment will be rescheduled, and appropriate imaging ordered.
 - The patient will be called and notified of imaging results and of appointment changes.
- If the imaging is unstable:
 - The oncology patient team most often consists of medical oncologist, radiation oncologist and surgeon. Though each member is a vital part of the team, to decrease risk exposure and support social distancing the most appropriate physician will be the only physician following up with the patient to discuss results and review next step in treatment.
 - The patient will be assured during this visit all members of the team are contributing to their treatment plan and care and once restrictions are lifted their follow up appointment will resume as they have in the past.

Thank you all for your patience during this unprecedented time.