

Memorandum

TO: Premier Health Physicians and Advanced Practice Providers

FROM: Mary Boosalis, President & CEO, Premier Health

DATE: April 30, 2020

RE: **Update - Planning for re-opening of elective surgeries and procedures**

Our team continues to work to manage the quickly evolving COVID-19 pandemic and to communicate in a clear and transparent manner. As promised, we are sharing information as it is available. Additional details will be shared in the days to come.

We have been closely monitoring Governor DeWine's plan for responsibly restarting health care services that have recently been suspended by the state in order to conserve critical personal protective equipment (PPE) and hospital beds in anticipation of a patient surge during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Based on the Governor's latest guidelines, Premier Health will resume select health care services at many of our locations beginning on Monday, May 4. The initial focus will be on certain surgical cases and diagnostic procedures, medical imaging, and physical therapy and rehabilitation services.** Multidisciplinary teams from across the health system have worked diligently over the past few weeks to prepare for an anticipated increase in patient volume and to ensure that services can be resumed safely and responsibly. Hours for our operating rooms, cardiac catheterization labs and interventional radiology suites will be adjusted to accommodate these needs. Please see below for additional details:

Surgical Cases and Diagnostic Procedures:

The Governor has advised that postponed elective surgeries and diagnostic procedures should be reviewed with a focus on the patient's current health situation and quality of life. This plan engages patients in shared decision making regarding the need for and timing of health care services. Surgeries and other procedures could still be delayed based upon mutual decisions made by patients and their clinicians.

For additional details regarding the prioritization of cases, please see the attached documents:

- **Premier Health, COVID-19-Phase I Surgery/Procedural Scheduling Algorithm**
- **Premier Health Elective Surgery/Procedures Governance Process** (*includes talking points and a sample script for use when talking with patients coming to the hospital regarding COVID-19*). We are also updating the Premier Surgical Consent form, the EPIC RBA phrase, and the EPIC Bridge Note with language consistent with the order. These should be in place by May 1.
- **Recommended PPE for Surgical & Procedural Areas (Endoscopy/Interventional Radiology and Cardiovascular Lab)**

It is important to note that all patients will be screened during their pre-admission testing call the day prior to a scheduled surgery/procedure, and again upon arrival on the day of the surgery/procedure. Testing will be included in the screening process when it becomes available. In addition, patients will be screened the day after surgery and provided discharge instructions will direct all patients to follow up with their physician if they begin to develop symptoms of COVID-19.

Medical Imaging:

Interventional radiology and non-urgent imaging exams are scheduled to resume on May 4. Please note that the following services will not begin until May 11: screening mammography, DXA, calcium scoring and Low dose CT lung screening.

Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services:

On May 4, the ramp-up of therapy services will begin at all sites, with a primary focus on physical medicine and rehabilitation patients. Also on this date, cardiac rehabilitation services will resume services at MVH, AMC and UVMC. Pulmonary rehab and sports medicine/sports performance services will be addressed separately. The goal will be to return to normal volumes at many sites of care within a few weeks.

Precertification Requirements:

Procedures and services on payer precertification lists may require additional notification and/or coverage determination. Please remind staff of the importance of confirming with payers that prior precertification is still valid (confirm current patient coverage, note any insurance changes that may have taken place recently and/or ensure authorization for all scheduled procedures and/or services).

Cardiac Services:

Cardiac services will resume on May 4.

Endoscopic Procedures:

Endoscopic procedures will resume on May 4.

Providers are invited to participate in a Microsoft LIVE event this evening, (Thursday, April 30) at 6:15 pm. This forum will address additional re-entry plan details including Premier Health's visitation policy, surgical and procedural readiness, medical imaging, PPE, lab testing, and will include a Q&A session.

Link to join event: [CLICK HERE](#)

We continue to monitor daily key trends that inform our ramp-up – including PPE, pharmacy, bed capacity, environmental controls, and supplies – and are confident that they are adequate to perform all services safely.

Thank you so much for your partnership as we work to safely and responsibly return to expanded care for our patients.