



COVID-19 Update

March 18, 2020

Suspension of Elective Surgical Procedures

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Effective immediately, all elective operative procedures will be postponed indefinitely.

This postponement will allow us to further guard against the spread of COVID-19 and work to maintain a safe work environment for all of our staff and patients.

The intended impact of this suspension is threefold: to keep our caregivers safe, to assure we have ample capacity to meet potential community needs during this crisis, and to preserve medical supplies.

This is one of many organizational shifts and changes we will be taking over the coming days and weeks to protect all of you and ensure we are doing what is best for our patients and community to continue to make a healthy difference. We are committed to keeping you informed as changes become reality and this update (COVID-19 SIC Update) is the first of many you will see as we work through this rapidly developing situation.

Please see the attached letter from Brandon Ball, M.D., and Chief of Surgery and Linda Kunkel, Administrative Director of Surgical Services at Uniontown Hospital for full details on the suspension of elective procedures.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact Uniontown Hospital Director of Community Relations Joshua Krysak at 724-430-8634 or krysak@utwn.org.



To: Dept. of Surgery/ Medical Staff

From: Dr. Brandon Ball M.D., Chief of Surgery
Linda Kunkel, Administrative Director of Surgical Services

Date: March, 18, 2020

RE: COVID-19 SIC Update - Surgical Services Operational Changes

As you all are aware, the Coronavirus is continuing to spread and is affecting all of us. The Federal Government, the American College of Surgeons, and the Surgeon General have all emphasized that healthcare professionals and facilities are responsible to help mitigate the spread of the virus by taking various commonsense measures. Specifically, the Surgeon General has warned elective surgery can spread COVID-19 within a facility.

In order to protect our patients, employees and the community, we will temporarily postpone all elective, non-emergent surgeries and GI procedures effective March 19, 2020 through May 15, 2020. This move mirrors a similar step taken by WVU Medicine, which has postponed elective procedures until that date, as well. In mid-April we will conduct a reevaluation of the need for a further postponement of elective surgeries.

The Operating Room will be staffed to run two rooms for any inpatients and patients from the Emergency Department that require surgery, including GI procedures. These cases will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Utilization of block time will not be calculated during this time of closure. We understand that these temporary changes will represent a significant change for those of you directly impacted. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

A suggested list from the Classification of Emergent procedures policy from each service line that can continue to be performed will be provided to those directly impacted by this change. Please note this list is not all-inclusive and other cases will be considered on an individual basis.

These Cases are subject to be reviewed by myself and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Surabhi Gaur. I will also be in daily contact with Linda Kunkel, Administrative Director Surgical Services.

Our goal is to continue to provide Surgical Services to our patients that are most in need while complying with government guidelines and conserving our supply chain and resources. I will continue to communicate with you. We appreciate your cooperation with the temporary changes during these healthcare challenges.

Please feel free to contact me or Linda Kunkel with any questions.

Thank you.