

## Surgery Surge Memo - April 3, 1446

Spectrum Health contact: Josh Kooistra, MD

Dear Spectrum Health Surgeon,

Leadership at Spectrum Health has been planning for the surge of patients that will need treatment for COVID-19 infection. As you are aware, we cancelled all non-urgent or emergent procedures to open capacity in our hospitals. A triage of surgical procedures was put into place by the surgery leadership team. Please review the document titled 'Levels of Surgery with Examples.' As our modeling is updated daily based on current data, we don't anticipate the surge to occur until the third or fourth week of April. When the surge does occur, it may be challenging to perform even level three or four procedures.

We are asking you to work with Spectrum Health surgical leadership to determine if there are patients with a scheduled level three or four triaged procedure for late April or May and pull these forward to be done in the next two weeks. In rare circumstances, if patients scheduled for a level five procedure have a likely chance of clinical decline leading to the need for an emergent procedure over the next three to four months, you are encouraged to reclassify these as level fours or above, and surgical leadership will consider allowing these to proceed. No level five procedures that do not meet these requirements will be approved. Our surgical services scheduling team will be working closely with your office on the classification of your cases through July 8 to assist in this initiative. Your office team will have received information on how they can help us accomplish this pull forward and the resources available for them to reach out with questions.

Financial impacts for the physician, patient or Spectrum Health will not be allowed to influence decisions. Furthermore, these cases would require shared decision making with the patient about the risks/benefits of performing the procedure in the current environment. All decisions should be made in the best interest of the patient's quality of life and safety. Please take into consideration any hospital inpatient stays for your patients during this period of pulling forward surgical cases. Long lengths of stays could both expose patient to higher risk during a surge of COVID admissions as well as take up valuable inpatient capacity.

We are so appreciative of your understanding and collaboration during these unprecedented times. We are making decisions on an ongoing basis with the best available information available. These guidelines are subject to change should the modeling shift and indicate a change in surge timing.