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Provider Alert: Guidance on Resuming Non-Emergency Essential Procedures and Surgeries

On April 22, 2020, Governor Newsom announced plans to allow hospitals and health systems to resume delayed medical care for Californians – such as heart valve replacements, angioplasty and tumor removals, and key preventative care services, such as colonoscopies.

Hospitals and health care systems are allowed to resume scheduling non-emergency essential surgeries and prioritize high-complexity chronic disease management when these can be done safely, with the resources required, and without compromising the ability to quickly respond to a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Facilities should follow guidelines set forth by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Re-opening Facilities to Provide Non-emergent Non-COVID Healthcare <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-flexibility-reopen-essential-non-covid-services.pdf> and the additional guidelines below provided by the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department:

- Assure physical distancing for staff and patients within the facility.
- Assure patient laboratory testing for COVID-19 within 7 days prior to surgery.
- Screen all staff, patients and vendors for minor symptoms and temperature upon entry to the facility.
- Healthcare providers and workers wear surgical facemasks at all times
- Patients should wear cloth face coverings or surgical masks.
- Be prepared with a reliable commercial source of PPE. Continue to conserve PPE and seek additional PPE from vendors.
- A positive result in a patient or staff member at your facility will result in a Public Health contact investigation, contact tracing, and potential isolation and quarantine your patients and staff.
- Prepare to cease these non-emergency essential procedures if there is a local surge of COVID cases.