



FAQ: EMERGENCY ORDER TWO NON-URGENT PROCEDURES AND SURGERIES

1. What surgeries and procedures are covered by this Order?

This Order applies to procedures and surgeries that require personal protective equipment (PPE), which if delayed, are not anticipated to cause harm to the patient by negatively affecting the patient's health outcomes, or leading to disability or death.

What surgeries and procedures are exempt from this Order?

Any procedure or surgery that if delayed or canceled would result in the patient's condition worsening is exempt. Additionally, surgeries and procedures exempt from this order include outpatient visits delivered in hospital-based clinics. This Order does not apply to the full suite of family planning services and procedures or to treatment for patients with emergency/urgent needs.

2. Who determines what surgeries and procedures are covered by this Order?

Clinicians and health care facilities make this determination. Licensed inpatient and outpatient surgical hospitals, free-standing endoscopy centers, physicians' offices, and dental, orthodontic, and endodontic offices should regularly review planned and planned procedures and surgeries that require PPE and requests for procedures and surgeries that require PPE as they occur. They should reschedule those procedures and surgeries that require PPE, which if delayed, are not anticipated to cause harm to the patient by negatively affecting the patient's health outcomes, or lead to disability or death.

3. What are some examples of procedures or surgeries that can be delayed?

The Virginia Department of Health recommends all physicians and providers refer to the American College of Surgeons guidelines, CMS guidelines, and specialty society recommendations for examples of non-urgent procedures and surgeries.

In addition to exercising best clinical judgment, clinicians should also consider current and projected COVID-19 cases in the facility and surrounding area; supplies of PPE; staffing availability; and urgency of procedures when making these decisions.

4. Why is this Order needed?

The rapid spread of COVID-19 and evolving situation require that our health care system become strategic in their use of medical resources, specifically PPE, to ensure we are able to continue the strong response efforts that are underway across the Commonwealth.

We recognize the hardship that this will cause on patients and healthcare providers, particularly for ambulatory surgical centers throughout the Commonwealth. However, the historic COVID-19 pandemic necessitates the need to make this difficult decision and until supplies are fully replenished, there are no alternatives available.

5. When does the Order take effect?

Immediately on March 25, 2020.

6. When does the Order expire?

The Order will remain in effect until May 1, 2020 or until the Governor and State Health Commissioner amend or rescind it.