

Deferrable Imaging Recommendations

As Ohio braces for the surge of COVID-19 patients, we have implemented many initiatives to:

- 1) Protect patients and providers.
- 2) Preserve critically short supplies of PPE, and
- 3) Preserve inpatient bed capacity and other equipment for critically ill patients.

For example, the U.S. Surgeon General, American College of Surgeons, and numerous other public health experts have recommended the suspension of all elective surgeries. In addition, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine declared the suspension of all elective surgeries, effective close of business, Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

Similar to postponing elective surgeries, we are making the proactive decision to reduce selected outpatient/ambulatory imaging services with a goal of reducing the risk of patient and staff exposure to COVID-19 and to preserve hospital-based capacity for inpatients with COVID-19.

Therefore, effective March 24, 2020, all elective and non-essential imaging is postponed at our hospital and ambulatory sites. These services are postponed most likely for a period of four weeks and may be directed to specific locations.

Elective Criteria:

If none of the following criteria are met, the imaging procedure will be postponed:

- Threat to the patient's life, if imaging not performed.
- Threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system, if imaging not performed.
- Risk of metastasis or progression of staging, if imaging not performed.
- Risk of rapidly worsening to severe symptoms (time sensitivity), if imaging not performed.

All clinical providers are asked to adhere to a priority-based algorithm for the elective use of out-patient imaging. The algorithm is predicated on the understanding that many diagnostic imaging examinations and image-guided procedures performed in Radiology can be delayed without significant adverse clinical effects on our ambulatory patients (see Table 1: General Guidance), and safely resumed once we are beyond the current health crisis.

Table 1: General Guidance

GENERAL INDICATION FOR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING/ IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES		PRIORITY	
		OUT-PATIENT	IN-PATIENT ONLY
Treatment Decision-Making		Urgent/Emergent Only	
Evaluation of New Signs/Symptoms		Urgent/Emergent Only	
Monitoring of Treatment Response that would:	Influence Active Treatment	Urgent/Emergent Only	No hold applied
	Not Impact Active Treatment	Conditional (per Clinician-Radiologist consult)	
	Not Impact Active Treatment but under Clinical Research	Urgent/Emergent, but delayed per COM/IRB	
Monitoring of Growth of Known/ Indeterminate Lesion		Associated with clinically indicated appointment- No Hold applied	

[continued] Table 1: General Guidance

DISCIPLINE	PROPOSED DEFERRABLE ELECTIVE IMAGING	
	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
Neuro	MRI/CT: Chronic Back/Neck Pain	Myelogram: Back Pain/Radiculopathy
	MRI/CT: Meningioma Monitoring	
	MRI/CT: Pituitary Adenoma Monitoring	
	MRI/CT: Dementia Evaluation	
	CT: Chronic Sinusitis	
Thoracic	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
	CT: Lung Cancer Screening	
	CT: Lung Volume Reduction Planning	
	CT: Chronic Dz (ILD, PAH)	
	CT: F-U on CT/X-Ray Findings	
Cardiovascular	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
	CT: Coronary Calcium Scoring	
	CTA: TAVI Evaluation	
	CTA: Aorta	
Breast	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
	MRI: Screening	
	US: Screening (ABUS) & 6-Month F-U (SSCBC & Satellites)	
	Mammo: Screening & 6-Month F-U (SSCBC & Satellites)	
Abdominal / Pelvic & General Body	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
	MRI/CT: Inflammatory Bowel Dz	
	US: Thyroid	
	US: Pelvic	
	US: RUQ	
	US: AAA Screening	
	X-Ray: Kidney Stones	
Musculoskeletal	X-Ray: Constipation	
	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
	MRI/CT: Rheumatologic Evaluation	MRI/CT: Arthrogram Injections
	MRI/CT: Scoliosis Evaluation	Joint Injections: Pain Management
	MRI: Chronic Joint Pain	Aspiration: Rheumatologic Evaluation
	CT: Hip for FemAcet Impingement	Aspiration: Pre non-Emerg Joint Prosthesis Revision
	CT: Total Joint Implants	Ablation: Osteoid Osteoma
	X-Ray: Rheumatologic Evaluation	
	X-Ray: Scoliosis Evaluation	
	DEXA	
Nuclear / Molecular	Fluoroscopy	
	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
	Lung Quantification	
	Gastric Emptying	
	HIDA with EF	
Interventional	Thyroid Uptake & Scans	
	DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING EXAMINATIONS	IMAGE-GUIDED PROCEDURES
		Bx: Medical Liver Dz (except Trx Rejection)
		Bx: Medical Renal Dz (except Trx Rejection)
		IVC Filter Removal
		Complex Venous Reconstructions
		Venous Recanalization
		Elective Pain Management Procedures
		Sclerotherapy
		Uterine Fibroid Embolization
		Prostate Artery Embolization
		Port Placement (Unless Crucial for Therapy)
		Port Removal (Unless Infected)
		Transjugular Liver Biopsy
		Adrenal Vein Sampling
		Biliary Drainage Catheter Exchange
		Nephrostomy Tube Catheter Exchange