



COVID-19 Elective Procedures Flowchart

Effective April 27, the State has partially lifted the ban on elective surgeries and nonessential medical procedures. To assist practices in determining whether a procedure is subject to the limitations on elective and nonessential procedures, IMS has developed this brief flowchart to outline the overlapping State of Public Health Disaster Emergency Declarations and the Iowa Department of Public Health's Revised Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Shortage Order, which was signed on April 25. This resource is intended for informational use only and does not constitute legal advice. Practices are encouraged to consult their legal counsel and their medical liability carrier prior to resuming elective surgeries or nonessential medical procedures.

Level One: Does the Procedure Utilize PPE?

The April 25 PPE Shortage Order PPE as "gloves, gowns, aprons, coveralls, goggles, face shields, facemasks, and respirators." Procedures, which do not utilize PPE are not subject to the state restrictions on elective and nonessential services.

Level Two: Does the Procedure Meet the Definition of Essential?

The April 24 & 27 State Public Health Disaster Emergency Declarations define a procedure as essential if delaying the procedure would cause risk to the current or future health of a patient including, but not limited to any of the following:

- 1) Threat to the patient's life if the surgery or procedure is not performed;
- 2) Threat of permanent dysfunction of an extremity or organ system;
- 3) Risk of metastasis or progression of staging; or
- 4) Risk of rapidly worsening to severe symptoms.

Procedures that meet one of these criteria are not subject to the state restrictions on elective and nonessential services.

Level Three: Would Further Delay Pose a Significant Risk to Quality of Life?

The April 24 & 27 State Public Health Disaster Emergency Declarations delineate that inpatient procedures are not subject to the state restrictions on elective and nonessential services if a further delay poses a significant risk to the quality of life of the patient.

Level Four: Does the Procedure Not Meet Previous Criteria?

The April 24 State Public Health Disaster Emergency Declarations deems procedures that do not meet the previous criteria are elective or nonessential. These surgeries and procedures are still permissible so long as they comply with the procedures outlined in the April 24 order. Practices are encouraged to review the IMS Checklist for Resuming Elective Procedures, to consult with their legal counsel and medical liability carriers, and to consider utilizing a supplemental patient consent form when resuming elective procedures.