This week’s focus is on “turning back on” our clinical organizations and managing the inevitable risks. Some are direct and we can anticipate and pre-position, some are indirect and we simply won’t know until we start down the road to recovery.

### Unforeseen Impacts

When the executive orders were implemented last month to halt elective surgeries and implement social distancing, it created immense unforeseen financial impact to organizations. Of note, outpatient clinics were never meant to be included and initially there was some confusion on the interpretation.

### Washington State

Darcy Jaffe of WSHA shared the latest updates on restrictions for Non Urgent Procedures in the state of Washington. There has been a lot of work going into finalizing details for guidelines allowing procedures to begin again and there are multiple stakeholders influencing the details. Ensuring PPE supplies is a top priority.

Interpretive Guidelines have been drafted and the final adjustments should be made by the end of the week and released by the Governors office. The guidelines will allow clinicians to use “clinical judgment” to determine the prioritization of a procedure in terms of risk of harm to the patient (treatment vs. deferment).
Specifically, the guidelines include “significant pain”, “significant dysfunction” or “risk of progression” to help in the decision making for whether or not to perform a procedure. Additionally, hospitals must also meet the following prerequisites:

• Cannot exceed 80% of licensed and staffed beds.
• Follow DOH “yellow” level of PPE Conservation.
• Must follow DOH guidance on extended and re-use of PPE.
• Must have 7 days of PPE in the facility.
• HCWs must have access to COVID 19 testing and notification within 8 hours of exposure.
• Must report COVID 19 positive HCWs by profession/position to WA HEALTH

**Oregon State**

Rebecca Tiel, OAHHS shared an update for Oregon. An Executive Order was issued April 27th directing the Oregon Health Authority to issue guidance for restarting elective and non-urgent procedures. State guidelines include:

• Keeping enough regional capacity to accommodate a 20% surge.
• 30 days of PPE on hand for large hospitals and 14 day supply for small hospitals.
• Follow the guidelines for re-use of PPE as well.
• Adequate testing available (specifics? Not sure)

OHA released guidelines on resuming non-emergent and elective procedures beginning May 1, 2020, so long as the criteria to do so has been met. Access the Hospital Attestation Form and the Guidance Outline here:

• [Guidance on Resumption of Non-Emergent and Elective Procedures at Hospitals](#)
• [Hospital Attestation to Resume Non-Emergent or Elective Procedures](#)
Universal Masking guidelines

OAHHS is working on ways to advocate for universal masking and more information can be found on their website here: Click here for OAHHS

Diagnostic imaging/procedures and physical therapy

Both states allow diagnostic procedures if illness or injury is suspected. Physical therapy guidelines are posted on the Washington Department of Health and are not expected to change at this time. They include limiting treatment to patients with a clear and documentable urgent medical need.

Student Placements

Some organizations have students still in rotation for clinical or in the beginning phases of re-integrating students into their practicum rotations. Enterprise, OR has kept their students in rotations.

Asante Health is having a regional meeting including a dean from OHSU/SOU to hold a focus group on the topic bringing students back and also welcoming new graduates.

Suzi Scott, Providence Centralia, shares that they are judiciously re-instating placements and have also instituted many extra precautions such as universal masking and temperature and symptom monitoring.

Debbie Brinker, WSU, updated us on resources available from Clinical Placements Northwest, a consortium of healthcare educators across Oregon, Idaho and Washington. Click here for Clinical Placements Northwest

Check NWONL's homepage for what's happening: Updates and Events.

Find Additional Resources here for Covid-19 at NWONL Leader Resources.
New NWONL Resources

NWONL message boards are open!

Jump in and add to the discussion, there are currently 2 Topics open.

  Academic Practice Partnerships
  Surge Plans and Nurse Staffing