

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** August 28, 2020

**TO:** All Hawai'i Pacific Health Medical Staff

**FROM:** Melinda Ashton, MD  
Executive Vice President and Chief Quality Officer

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations for How to Proceed with Elective Surgeries for Patients Whose COVID-19 Screening Test Results are Positive

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Following are recommendations for physicians on how to manage patients with elective surgeries when their pre-procedural screening tests come back positive for COVID-19 or they get ill with symptoms prior to their scheduled elective surgery.

1. Cancel the patient's surgery.
2. The patient needs to achieve the following clearance criteria:
  - a. At least 10 days have passed from positive test or first symptoms.
  - b. Fever free for at least 24 hours without antipyretics.
  - c. Improving clinical condition.
  - d. Criteria for severely immunocompromised are the same with a 20-day period from onset.
3. Conduct an assessment to include the urgency of surgery, complexity of surgery, and residual symptoms of COVID (if any) in order to make a clinical decision of timing of rescheduled surgery. Ideally, you would wait at least 30 days to reschedule a non-urgent procedure.
4. Do not do pre-procedural screening test unless 3 months have passed from the initial positive as it is possible to continue to have a residual positive test after clearance.
5. Inform the OR leadership and anesthesia about the situation when rescheduling is done.
6. The patient would be managed as non-infected, non-PUI for their surgery.

If you have any questions about these recommendations, please email [Covid19Bulletin@HawaiiPacificHealth.org](mailto:Covid19Bulletin@HawaiiPacificHealth.org). Thank you.