Subject: Message from Dr. Fischgrund: Pre-Surgical Testing Process

Physician colleagues,

Once again, I would like to thank our colleagues who continue to provide outstanding care to our community during these uncertain times. On Saturday, May 2, Beaumont Health hosted a Physician Webex to discuss Beaumont’s safety protocols as we begin to increase time-essential clinical services. Multiple topics were discussed, among them was pre-surgical testing. As a follow up to the Webex, we wanted to let you know that we have heard your concerns and will be providing additional resources to address this request.

Consistent with policies issued through the governor’s office and the Michigan Health Association (MHA), we will continue to support physician discretion for the clinical decision-making process regarding procedures and testing. We will facilitate this process going forward to ensure options are available for COVID-19 testing your patients before surgery. Beaumont is actively pursuing additional lab platforms to ensure we have adequate testing capacity.

The testing will be offered at least two days (48 hours) prior to surgery. We plan to use a test with a quick turnaround time to ensure results as clinically relevant as possible. Please advise your patients that after testing, they should quarantine themselves until the day of surgery.

Though pre-op testing is not a requirement for all patients, you may wish to consider pre-op COVID-19 testing for your patient, particularly if a prolonged post-op hospital stay is expected, or if your patient is at greater risk for complications from COVID-19. We encourage all physicians to use their best clinical judgement when making these decisions. Local hospital leadership has been involved and has developed testing protocols for both inpatient and outpatient procedures. Each site has mapped out operational workflows for collecting the specimen, and Beaumont Laboratory will process the specimens.

As with the last pre-surgical screening algorithm, if the patient’s COVID-19 test is negative, the surgery can proceed as planned. Surgical teams will continue to utilize the same PPE as current state. Consistent with our current guidelines, if the patient’s test is positive, the surgery should be postponed (if possible).

During the webinar, additional questions were asked. Please review this Q&A document that may be helpful at this time. Also, LARA and MHA have provided guidelines on essential surgeries. As always, you can find updated documents on providers.beaumont.org/coronavirus and reach out to me or your physician liaisons with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your support,

Jeff

Jeffrey S. Fischgrund, M.D.
Chief, Clinical Care Programs, Beaumont Health
Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak
Professor and Chairman, Orthopaedic Surgery
Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine