March 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As the number of patients diagnosed with Covid-19 increases on a daily basis, it is important to continuously plan ahead so as to maintain a proactive, not reactive, approach. There have been a number of federal agencies and national organizations who have published guidelines regarding elective surgery, including but not limited to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (1), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (2), the American Society of Anesthesiologists (3), the American College of Surgeons (4), the American Academy of Ophthalmology (5), and the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (6). All of the organizations have stressed the importance of postponing elective surgical procedures, while still moving forward with urgent and semi-urgent cases.

The Connecticut Society of Anesthesiologists (CSSA) supports these guidelines. At this uncertain time, the safety of our Physician Anesthesiologists and our staff needs to be a priority. There is a real concern that the number of Covid-19 patients will continue to grow and become a strain on our health care resources, including ventilators, hospital beds, personal protective equipment (PPE), and most importantly, health care workers. We need to absolutely minimize risk especially to needed health care workers.

The situation is changing on a daily basis. Open communication between all relevant parties is essential to continue providing high quality care to our patients. We urge all members of the CSSA to take leadership roles in their respective hospitals, medical centers, and ambulatory surgery centers, and know that the CSSA is here as a resource.


Sincerely,

The Executive Board of the CSSA