

From: Florida Podiatric Medical Association <importantinfo@fpma.com>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 1:23 PM
Subject: Dr. Mark Block Addresses Present Practice Challenges



I have received several practice-related questions regarding COVID-19. The following has already been shared with several members. I felt it would be best to disseminate this brief synopsis to further assist those who are unclear about the present practice challenges.

"Let me preface this by saying that the following is my understanding and interpretation of what is expected of us during the present health crisis and requisite challenges.

At the present time, I am not aware of any monetary penalties for providing specific services, but that is not to say there won't be a future look back regarding same. Sound professional and moral judgments will ultimately be major determining factors in executing patient care. I believe the best way to approach present practice guidelines would be to consider the spirit of the Governor's order as well as our obligation as clinicians serving our patients.

This initiative sets forth some of the following:

1. Stratifies what is and what is not a priority in the care of our patients.
2. Decreases stress on the system, i.e., decreasing potential shortages of supplies that may otherwise be needed by those with life-threatening illnesses.
3. Provides resources that our healthcare providers on the front line require.
4. Decreases the risk to patients and providers to exposure of the virus by eliminating unnecessary encounters.

Therefore, as clinicians, we need to use our training and expertise to determine where our patients' needs and services fall. Routine foot care that can be delayed with no medically compromising results, in my opinion, would fall into the category of an inappropriate treatment at the present time. A delay in medical care should be documented, substantiated, and defended. If

challenged, a strong case for justification of treatment should have requisite, convincing backup.

In the end, clinical judgement for a patient in pain, or a medical condition in which a delay would compromise the health of the patient, needs to be weighed when deciding to treat or not to treat.

We all have a moral and professional obligation to do what is right. Decisions need to be determined based on ethical vs. stressing or abusing an already-strained system.

APMA has resources available on www.apma.org/covid19 that may also be helpful.”

Fraternally,
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Chair, Insurance Committee, Florida Podiatric Medical Association

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