

**From:** Florida Podiatric Medical Association <fpmaalert@fpma.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 2:45 PM  
**Subject:** FPMA Alert: Clarification on Florida Executive Order #20-72



## **FPMA Alert**

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March 23, 2020

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### **Clarification on Executive Order 20-72 on Non-essential Elective Medical Procedures**

On March 20, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis promulgated Executive Order #20-72 to take effect immediately, essentially limiting non-essential medical procedures in an attempt to conserve medical supplies and resources needed to combat the COVID-19 outbreak or for any other medical emergency.

**Executive Order #20-72**

[https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2020/EO\\_20-72.pdf](https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/orders/2020/EO_20-72.pdf)

Effective immediately, all hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, office surgery centers, dental, orthodontic, and endodontic offices and other health care practitioners' offices are prohibited from providing any medically unnecessary, non-urgent, or non-emergency procedure or surgery.

The EO 20-72 means that only medically unnecessary, non-urgent, or non-emergency **procedures or surgeries** are prohibited.

The Department of Health confirmed that Physicians can continue to see patients for purposes of evaluation and management.

Telemedicine visits can continue unabated.

Primary care practitioners can continue to see and treat patients with chronic and acute conditions, perform wellness exams, and provide mental health services that do not consume personal protective equipment.

Specialists can see patients for follow-up care and other non-surgical purposes.

Citing the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recommendation, examples of procedures to delay include, but are not limited to:

- Elective or non-medically necessary surgical procedures
- Surgical procedures that can be postponed without putting the patient's immediate health, safety, or well-being at risk
- Medical procedures that would consume personal protective equipment, which can be postponed without putting the patient's immediate health, safety, or well-being at risk

Examples of permissible procedures include, but are not limited to:

- E&M is not affected by this order directly
- I&D and amputations for infection
- Wound debridement
- Post-operative care

Best practices may include:

- Rescheduling on low risk patients
- Employ social distancing in your wait areas (patients wait in cars)
- Utilize telehealth for routine care

This Executive Order shall expire upon the expiration of Executive Order 20-52 (60 days from March 9th), unless extended.

The Florida Podiatric Medical Association remains available as a resource to assist in guiding our members through this unprecedented event. Should you have any questions, please email the FPMA office at [klambert@fpma.com](mailto:klambert@fpma.com) or call 850-224-4085.

### **Resources:**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/>)
- Florida Department of Health - Florida Telehealth  
(<http://www.flhealthsource.gov/telehealth/>)
- CMS Adult Elective Surgery Procedures and Recommendations  
(<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.pdf>) &  
(<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit>)
- APMA (<https://www.apma.org/covid19>)
- FPMA  
([https://www.fpma.com/coronavirus\\_updates\\_and\\_resour.php](https://www.fpma.com/coronavirus_updates_and_resour.php))

Florida Podiatric Medical Association | 410 N. Gadsden Street | Tallahassee, FL 32301

