

From: Florida Podiatric Medical Association <fpmaalert@fpma.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 4:58 PM
Subject: FPMA Alert: FPMA Presidential Message Concerning Executive Order 20-72



FPMA Alert

March 24, 2020

FPMA Presidential Message

Executive Order 20-72

FPMA Members,

Since the decision by Governor DeSantis to cease all non-emergent surgical procedures last week, FPMA has taken numerous questions as to the impact on Podiatric Medicine. From my analysis, the goal of this was to limit the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the potential future strain to our medical system.

As physicians in our community and state, we must be diligent to evaluate each patient we are considering for office procedures regarding the risks of these procedures. I believe it is rational to perform procedures in the office that do not utilize PPEs and have a low threshold of complications or ever requiring hospitalization. We must weigh the necessity of these low risk in-office procedures. Procedures should be evaluated on a patient by patient basis. For example, injections for pain relief for those who are trying to continue to work; matrixectomies where either the possibility of infection and

hospitalization, if not performed, would tax our medical system seem reasonable and necessary.

The main thing we must remember is that the majority of procedures in a Podiatric Practice can be delayed with a minimal chance of worsening of symptoms. We are all educated medical professionals and must make the most prudent choices for our patients.

Below is a portion of the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-72:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, and based on recommendations from the Department of Health and the Agency for Health Care Administration by reason of conditions arising from this emergency, I hereby employ the following measures and direct as follows: Pursuant to section 252.36(7), Florida Statutes,

1. All hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, office surgery centers, dental, orthodontic and endodontic offices, and other health care practitioners' offices in the State of Florida are prohibited from providing any medically unnecessary, non-urgent or non-emergency procedure or surgery which, if delayed, does not place a patient's immediate health, safety, or wellbeing at risk, or will, if delayed, not contribute to the worsening of a serious or life-threatening medical condition. Accordingly, all health care practitioners licensed in the State of Florida, including dentists, shall immediately cease performing these elective services.
2. As articulated in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recommendation, examples of procedures to delay may include, but are not limited to, some endoscopy, most cataract and lens surgeries, non-urgent spine and orthopedic procedures, and cosmetic procedures.
3. As articulated in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recommendation, permissible procedures include, but may not be limited to, removal of a cancerous tumors, transplants, limb-threatening vascular surgeries, trauma-related procedures, and dental care related to the relief of pain and management of infection.

Fraternally,

Samir Vakil, DPM
President, FPMA