

### **Triage of OR/IPP Cases at BMC**

We once again anticipate an acceleration of the number of COVID patients admitted to Boston Medical Center. As a result, we shall decrease the volume of elective operations during the next few weeks.

Emergency, life-saving operations will proceed, as always, and we also intend to continue most elective operations. Of course, circumstances may change and warrant additional - and perhaps even extensive - postponements of operations and procedures in the IPP. If such challenging situations arise, as we experienced in spring 2020, we will need to ask:

1. Is it safe to proceed with the operation/procedure?
2. Should less orthodox alternatives be applied (e.g., neo-adjuvant chemotherapy or radiation for malignancies, etc.)?
3. Will we accept less than desirable outcomes (e.g., deformity from delay of a fracture repair)?

We shall maintain a contingency adjudication system to determine whether certain operations and procedures should proceed. When called upon, the primary surgeon(s) will present (via Zoom) the patient's case to a panel to discuss:

1. The merits of proceeding with the operation/procedure
2. The hazards of delay
3. Alternative measures

The three members of the panel and their alternates are:

- Chief Surgical Officer David McAneny, MD/alternate, Chair of Surgery Jennifer Tseng, MD
- Chair of Anesthesiology Rafael Ortega, MD/alternate, Vice Chair of Anesthesiology Mauricio Gonzalez, MD
- Chair or chief of the surgeon's service, with the vice chair as alternate.

There may occasionally be more than one primary surgeon (e.g., Otolaryngology and Neurosurgery for a pituitary operation); a chair or vice chair from both services will then be invited to participate on the panel. Following the surgeon's presentation, the panel will immediately deliberate about whether the operation/procedure should proceed as planned.

Thank you

David McAneny  
Rafael Ortega  
Jennifer Tseng