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CMS releases elective surgery recommendations for COVID-19 fight

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The CMS on Wednesday announced that elective surgeries and non-essential medical and surgical procedures should be delayed until the COVID-19 pandemic ends.

The agency recommended that providers and public officials consider a wide range of factors when deciding whether to postpone a surgery or procedure, including patient risk factors, bed availability, staffing and personal protective equipment supplies.

"We need to preserve personal protective equipment for those on the front lines of this fight," said CMS Administrator Seema Verma.



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The guidance should help providers and state and local officials preserve their supplies in the fight against COVID-19.

"As hospitals and physician practices plan for anticipated surges of patients needing care for COVID-19 infections, health professionals must use their expertise to develop allocation policies that are fair and safeguard the welfare of patients," Dr. Patrice Harris, president of the American Medical Association in a statement.

Medical supply chains have been tested by the coronavirus outbreak in recent weeks, leading to a shortage such critical items as N95 masks. The Trump administration has taken a series of measures to address the problem in recent days, even invoking wartime powers to increase U.S. production of medical supplies.

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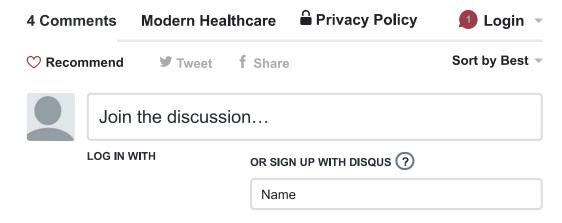
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The SETT Group • 6 months ago

Silly stuff. The only entity that should be making protocol for any surgeries are the surgeons--specially, the American College of Surgeons. All others should but out, especially the AMA.

Dee → The SETT Group • 5 months ago

The ACS did recommend postponing or cancelling all elective cases.

https://www.facs.org/media/...

Eileen • 6 months ago

Huh? Government bureaucrats deciding surgical policy? Is this the future? Where is the surgical leadership on this? These decisions should be local regional and based upon cases of COVID19, resources and preparedness. It should be made by surgeons, their chief and the hospital or surgery center. If the local situation changes then the local policy should reflect that There is no reason to shut down all elective cases especially in a hospital area with low to no current COVID19 cases. Lets get a balance between panic and scaled response.

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