OPENING UP FLORIDA AGAIN
Guidelines for Resuming Urgent & Elective Surgical Procedures

PHASE ONE – Specific Types of Employers, Urgent & Elective Surgeries

WHEREAS health care facilities that can maintain their COVID-19 surge readiness while safely resuming the delivery of surgical care shall do so;

WHEREAS on April 19, 2020, Federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued Recommendations for Reopening Facilities to Provide Non-emergent Non-COVID-19 Healthcare; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida and HCA Healthcare, and other providers proudly serving on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19 in Florida, recommend the following:

Section 1. Prerequisites for Performing Surgical Procedures.

Beginning (April 25, 2020 or May 1, 2020) hospitals licensed under 395.002(12), may resume delivery of surgical procedures provided the facility adheres to CMS Recommendations and complies with all of the following prerequisites:

1. COVID-19 Care Units: Maintain designated COVID+ and PUI area of the facility with dedicated ingress, egress and no through ways to ensure that at no time shall COVID care practitioners, patients and visitors come in contact with elective surgical suite practitioners, patients and visitors.

2. COVID-19 Surge Capacity: Maintain capacity to admit additional COVID+ and PUI patients by ensuring that the number of licensed beds unoccupied and available exceed at least 20% of the number of licensed and available beds then occupied by COVID+ and PUI patients.

3. PPEs Stockpile: Maintain at all times a sufficient volume of PPEs.

4. Practitioners: COVID-19 negative test required for all practitioners and personnel that are symptomatic or who have been known to be exposed to COVID-19.

5. Patients: COVID-19 negative test prior to non-emergency surgery when medically necessary as determined by the admitting or treating physician.

6. Hospital Staff: All persons must wear approved mask when in the hospital building, ingress and egress areas.

7. Hospital Visitors: No visitors allowed beyond main hospital waiting area (main waiting areas are those seating areas located at building ingress and egress doorways). One visitor per patient allowed in main waiting areas. All visitors in main waiting areas must wear a mask or cloth mouth and nose covering. Exceptions may be made in cases involving death and dying patients, patients in labor, and patients with cognitive impairment.

8. Contact-Tracing Collaboration: Hospitals will support state and local contact-tracing personnel in their work to quickly identify COVID+ and PUI patients entering hospitals from skilled nursing and long term care facilities.

9. Testing Collaboration: Hospitals will collaborate with state and local officials in their work to increase testing capacity for residents and employees of skilled nursing and long term care facilities.

PHASE TWO – Specific Types of Employers, Urgent & Elective Surgeries

Section 2. Section 1 shall expire upon the expiration of Executive Order 20-72.