



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KNOXVILLE AREA HOSPITALS JOIN TOGETHER TO ANNOUNCE CHANGES IN PROCEDURES

KNOXVILLE, TN (March 20, 2020) - Working together with the Knox County Health Department, local area hospitals including Covenant Health, East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Tennova Healthcare and The University of Tennessee Medical Center as well as numerous other healthcare facilities have collaborated to address the evolving COVID-19 impact on our region. Utilizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) standards and recommendations, area facilities will be temporarily ceasing non-essential adult procedures on Monday, March 23, 2020. East Tennessee Children's Hospital is limiting certain non-essential pediatric procedures. Ultimately, hospitals will rely on providers to use clinical judgment and standards of care in determining when to complete a procedure.

Non-Essential Procedures (Utilizing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services criteria)
Delay in the procedure will not likely contribute to significant progression of disease or harm to the patient, or symptom reduction measures are available to the patient during the delay.

Essential Procedures
The procedure is deemed necessary to treat the disease or injury and/or to create bed capacity during healthcare states of emergency. Postponing or delaying an essential procedure may result in increased risk to the patient and/or delay needed healthcare access for others at-risk.

Patients who have questions about whether their procedure or service is essential, should contact their provider's office directly.

In addition, all local hospitals are currently evaluating Visitor Restriction policies in conjunction with CDC guidelines and Tennessee Department of Health recommendations. The community should expect changes to these restrictions soon.

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