

A Publication for Direct Patient Care Providers

Protocol Development for Pre-Procedural Screening of Asymptomatic Patients

As our hospitals operationalize pre-procedural testing for surgical/procedural patients, UPMC has a protocol to initiate the testing for Sars-Cov2 (COVID-19) infection.

The protocol is designed for all hospital-based areas/departments that perform surgical and procedural care and can be initiated by a registered nurse conducting a pre-procedural call with surgical/procedural patients and/or scheduling a patient's surgery or procedure.

[This protocol template](#) is approved through each hospital's Medical Executive Committee and Nursing leadership.

Chief nursing officers and VPAs will be receiving separate correspondence with details and next steps in the process.

Pre-procedural and Pre-surgical COVID-19 Testing Workflow and Resources Available

Pre-procedural and pre-surgical testing of patients for COVID-19 is underway across UPMC. This testing will help keep our patients and staff safe by identifying asymptomatic carriers of illness prior to procedures and surgeries where aerosolizing procedures take place and potential risk of asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 is greatest, as we continue to expand our testing abilities in preparation for testing all of our patients in the future.

UPMC has a workflow, toolkit, and patient-facing resources for the [COVID-19 Preprocedural/Presurgical Testing process on Infonet](#). Additional resources are coming to include personalized resources specific to your business unit for some of the processes identified.

Daily Electronic Self-Screening in Outpatient Settings

Clinical screening of employees and others entering the work environment keeps our staff and facilities safe by ensuring those with symptoms related to COVID-19 do not enter.

We are expanding facility entry screening for employees through electronic self-screening to **outpatient settings**, including physician offices, Urgent Care, Centers for Rehab Services, Outpatient Centers, Imaging Centers, and all other ambulatory locations. As this rolls out, each division will receive a unique QR code and associated electronic form link via Microsoft Forms. This will be sent to the employee's UPMC email address.

[Refer to these questions and answers as discussion topics](#) about the outpatient setting self-screening process.

Managing Loss During a Crisis and Creating Connection From a Distance

Developed by the UPMC Home Health & Family Hospice team, [a resource guide is now available to help employees navigate the loss of a loved one during a crisis](#), when normal grief and mourning procedures may not be accessible.

[A resource guide has also been developed to help employees find ways to create connections](#) for either themselves, or their patients and families, during periods of physical distancing.

Both of these documents provide tangible resources, communication tips, and advice on managing what to do and how to cope with feelings and anxieties associated with these two scenarios.

Telemedicine Billing Questions Answered

Physicians are invited to join a tele-town hall to ask questions about compliance, coding, billing, and documentation for telemedicine visits on [Tuesday, May 5, from 7 to 8 a.m.](#)

The agenda includes:

- Overview — **Brehan Wolff**
- Outpatient — **Gary Fischer, MD**
- Inpatient — **Kristian Feterik, MD**
- Q&A — **Megan Cortazzo, MD**

Physicians who would like an overview of the operational workflows associated with inpatient telemedicine can also join a virtual training session:

- [Tuesday, May 5, from 1 to 2 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, May 6, from 1 to 2 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, May 7, from 1 to 2 p.m.](#)

Lifestyle Resources to Support You

UPMC is committed to helping you navigate life while you are working on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to support services from UPMC, many external organizations are offering free services for exercise, learning, and virtual cultural experiences for health care workers. Take a look at these [COVID-19 Lifestyle Resources](#) and [COVID-19 Physician Resources \(must change view as to physicians\)](#).

New and Updated Clinical Resources

- [COVID-19 Condition M Guidelines](#) for Behavioral Health and Medical Surgical Units
- [Inpatient Telemedicine Equipment Listing](#)
- [COVID-19 Women's Health Care Service Line](#) updated guidance regarding oxygen titration for obstetrics patients

Questions About Antibody Testing?

Review the updated [SARS-CoV-2 and Respiratory Viral Infection Testing FAQs](#) and [Antibody Testing Clarification](#) resource.