

Additional instruction for pre-op anesthesia evaluation

Out of an abundance of caution UCLA Health has added additional pre-procedural screening questions to mitigate exposure to COVID-19. All patients scheduled for elective surgery and procedures will be asked a series of questions during their routine pre-op phone call from the operative and procedural unit staff. The questions are consistent with CDC and L. A. County Dept. of Public Health guidelines to determine if they are at risk for infection. My apologies for a long email but this is important information for you to have while we are at risk for caring for patients who may have COVID-19. Please save this email in case you need to refer to it in the future.

The additional screening questions are:

Have you had a fever in the last 24 hours? (Defined as Temperature \geq 100°F)

Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection?

o If yes, then ask the following:

o Have you, a family member, or a close contact, traveled outside of the country in the last 14 days?

§ If yes, then ask what country? See country list below for affected countries.

Affected Country List as of 3/5 and subject to change: China, Japan, South Korea, Iran or Italy.

If a patient answers affirmatively to either of these questions, our staff are instructed to ask the patient to not come to the facility as planned and to reschedule with the surgeon's office once symptoms have resolved. Our staff will notify the surgeons and remove the case from the schedule.

If the surgeon believes that the risk of delaying the procedure outweighs the risk of operating with a potential COVID infection, they will contact the Emerging Infectious Disease faculty on call to discuss the case. If the EID team agrees that the case should proceed then they will assist with arrangements to enable the patient to safely enter the facility without putting staff, physicians, patients and visitors at unnecessary risk. The EID team will notify us of the plan of care for the patient and will guide us regarding perioperative management of PPE.

During your normal pre-op phone call with a patient you may end up eliciting information similar to the two screening questions above. If you feel that you have obtained a positive response from the patient who has either not yet been contacted by the pre-op staff or was missed during that phone call, then you will need to follow the steps below:

1. Let the patient know that you or another member of the team will call them back with information about their case.
2. Residents & CRNAs should discuss the patient's responses with their Attending Anesthesiologist or the Medical Director at the site to verify cancellation of the case based on the guidelines.
3. Contact the surgical team to notify them of the cancellation.
4. Identify who will notify the patient of the need to reschedule.

You can use the following talking points to assist with your communication with patients should you end up informing them about the need to reschedule:

We are concerned about your symptoms and the impact they could have on you and the health of other patients here at UCLA Medical Center.

At this time, we do not recommend that you come in for the procedure tomorrow.

When your symptoms have resolved, we will be able to reschedule your surgery or procedure.

We will notify (or have notified) your surgeon or proceduralist that your procedure needs to be rescheduled.

You may want to call your surgeon or proceduralist to discuss the options regarding your surgery.

If the patient asks about how to seek further medical help or testing, you should refer them to their primary care doctor.