

Memorandum

SUBJECT: CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #8 – **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESUMING SELECTIVE URGENT OUTPATIENT CARDIAC PROCEDURES, AND SURGERIES**

TO: CEOs of Cardiac Programs and Members of the CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Forum

CC: Dr. Kevin Smith and Dr. Jennifer Gibson, Co-Chairs, COVID-19 Critical Care Table, COVID-19 Command Table

FROM: **Dr. Madhu Natarajan**, Chair, CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Stakeholder Forum; Structural and Interventional Cardiology Director, Hamilton-Niagara Integrated Heart Investigation Unit; Site Lead Cardiology, Hamilton General Hospital; Professor of Medicine, McMaster University

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Ms. Sheila Jarvis, CEO, CorHealth Ontario

DATE: April 13, 2020

TIME: 5:00 PM

DISCLAIMER: The information in this document represents general guidance based on current practice and available evidence. The document was developed by provincial clinical experts, reflecting best knowledge at the time of writing, and is subject to revision based on changing conditions and new evidence. This information is *intended to be* “guidance rather than directive,” and is *not meant to replace clinical judgment or hospital policies*. Reference to Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in this document should not replace or supersede the IPAC and PPE protocols or directives in place at your hospital.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESUMING SELECTIVE URGENT OUTPATIENT CARDIAC PROCEDURES, AND SURGERIES

PREAMBLE

COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis and poses a significant risk to the community as the landscape is rapidly evolving. The Ministry of Health has requested that all hospitals ramp down non-essential services, elective surgeries and other non-emergent clinical activity. CorHealth Ontario (CorHealth) has been engaging with cardiac experts and stakeholders across the province to discuss how best to preserve health care capacity, in light of increasing COVID-19 cases requiring health care. The following guidance and recommendations reflect advice from this engagement and does not replace clinical judgement or hospital policies and decisions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

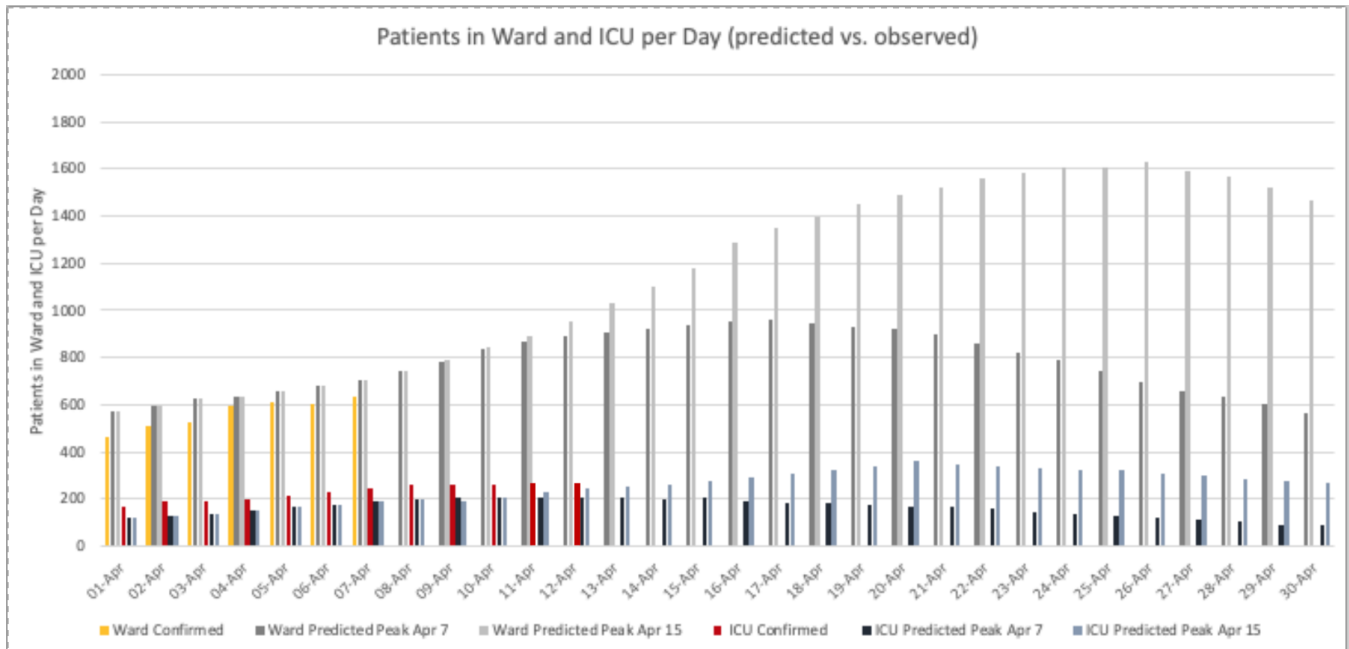
1. Keeping front line health care providers healthy and patients protected is vital.
2. Minimizing the impact of COVID-19 on the mortality and morbidity of patients with cardiac disease is a priority.
3. Aligning with province- and hospital-specific infection prevention and control policies and protocols is important.
4. Promoting clinical activities aimed at preserving hospital resources (i.e. health care human resources, personal protective equipment, procedure rooms, Intensive Care Units, Emergency Departments) is a priority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since issuing *CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #7 – Immediate Reduction in Cardiac Procedures and Surgeries* on April 4, 2020, COVID-19 pandemic epidemiology and hospital use has been closely followed. Based on these observations over the last nine days, CorHealth recommends, with the approval of your local hospital leadership and based on local resource circumstances, the resumption of **selective** urgent outpatient procedures, and surgeries for those deemed to be of **highest risk**. The highest risk patient categories should be informed by previous guidance documents (See Previous Memos below for reference).

CorHealth Ontario will continue to closely monitor this situation and will provide updates as required.

CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #8 – Recommendations for Resuming Selective Urgent Outpatient Cardiac Procedures, and Surgeries



*as of April 12, 2020

PREVIOUS MEMORANDUMS (for reference)

- CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #1 – [Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Managing Cardiac Electrophysiology During COVID-19](#)
- CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #2 – [Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Provision of Hospital Echocardiography Services During COVID-19](#)
- CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #3 – [Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Managing STEMI During COVID-19](#)
- CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #4 – [Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Catheter Based Structural Heart Procedures During COVID-19](#)
- CorHealth COVID-19 Cardiac Memo #6 – [Recommendations for an Ontario Approach to Managing Referrals for Cardiac Services During COVID-19](#)

All memorandums and other resources can be found on the [CorHealth COVID-19 Resource Centre](#).