



6/3/2020

TO: Illinois Hospital Administrators

FROM: Ngozi O. Ezike, M.D.
Director

DATE: June 3, 2020

SUBJECT: Elective Inpatient Surgeries and Procedures

Per IDPH guidance for COVID-19 *Elective Surgeries and Procedures* distributed April 24, 2020, assessment of regional capacity for elective inpatient procedures¹ will be informed by surveillance of epidemiologic trends, regional hospital bed capacity and availability, and each hospital's bed capacity and availability. Experience during the COVID-19 pandemic has shown a regional health system becomes seriously stressed when medical/surgical bed or ICU bed availability drops below 20%.

Accordingly, IDPH has issued guidance that individual hospitals must meet **ALL** three of the following requirements to perform elective **inpatient** procedures:

- Hospital availability of adult medical/surgical beds exceeds 20% of operating capacity for adult medical/surgical beds;
- hospital availability of ICU beds exceeds 20% of operating capacity for ICU beds; and
- hospital ventilator availability exceeds 20% of total ventilators.

IDPH will calculate a hospital's availability/capacity as follows:

Every Wednesday night, IDPH will run a report from EMResource to determine if any hospital fails to meet the above requirements. Specifically, the report will show if a hospital is below the 20% threshold in any of the above three categories, calculated as a rolling average of the previous seven days. Beginning June 5, 2020, IDPH will notify hospitals every Friday if they are under the 20% threshold in any of the three categories.

If a hospital is notified by IDPH it has fallen below 20% in any of the three categories during the preceding seven-day period, it should evaluate the current census, number of scheduled procedures from the relevant seven-day period, and other relevant factors to determine why the 20% threshold was not maintained. The hospital should institute measures to meet the 20% thresholds, including

¹ Inpatient elective procedures are defined in the guidance as an elective procedure in which the patient being considered for that procedure is likely to remain in the hospital for more than 23 hours, starting from the time of registration and ending at the time of departure.

measures to decrease scheduled cases, such as rescheduling procedures, placing patients in an “on-call” status, and/or cancelling procedures for the upcoming week. The hospital should send a situational update to IDPH at DPH.HospitalReports@illinois.gov within 48 hours of being notified of falling below established thresholds. IDPH will review the hospital’s situational update and provide consultation when needed.

Hospitals not performing elective inpatient procedures may receive a notification. If your hospital is below the 20% thresholds, but is not performing elective inpatient procedures, inform IDPH of such at DPH.HospitalReports@illinois.gov.

It is vital to each region that hospitals meet the three specified requirements to perform elective inpatient procedures in order to accommodate a potential influx of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. IDPH appreciates your attention to hospital bed availability and surge capacity and your willingness to be responsive during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide high-quality patient care to the communities we serve.