

March 24, 2020

Information on what is considered to be essential health care services under Governor Whitmer's Executive Order

Regarding essential services, unless specifically prohibited, it will be left up to the clinician's medical judgement to determine what is necessary to preserve the health and safety of the patient. I would recommend that pediatric practices review this FAQ from the AAP

- <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/covid-19-clinical-guidance-q-a/>. It discusses how to assess ongoing practice operations in light of COVID-19. Also, this type of guidance can help them establish a plan going forward to identify which services to postpone, which patients need to be seen in-person, and which patient visits are appropriate for telemedicine.

From our communications with the Governor's Office and MDHHS, it is our understanding that if a physician believes delaying care would be detrimental to a patient's health, they expect the physician will use his or her best judgement. Where concern would arise is if there is a clear pattern of willful disregard for the provisions in the relevant EOs. We think there may be further clarification in the form of a FAQ from the Administration emphasizing this.

Best regards,

Stacey

Stacey P. Hettiger | Director
Medical and Regulatory Policy
Michigan State Medical Society
517-336-5766 | shettiger@msms.org
www.msms.org