



System-wide Recovery Guidelines

Team: Non-Operative Procedures
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II. Operationalization of Infection Control Guidelines

BILH's Infection Control Guidelines can be referenced [here](#). The guidelines below outline recommendations for how these guidelines should be operationalized in the procedural setting.

A. Staff Education

- i. To optimize patient care within locally implemented symptom-screening and testing workflows, BILH hospitals must:
 - a. Educate staff on COVID-19 symptom and exposure screening questions to be asked of patient, the location of the screening information, and follow-through steps for screen-positive patients,
 - b. Educate staff on testing including preferred timing of tests, testing locations, counselling PCR-positive patients, indications and process for rapid testing, and follow-up for PCR-positive patients.

B. Pre-procedure Testing and Screening

- i. To minimize the number of visits patients must make to the hospital prior to the procedure, hospitals should, when possible:
 - a. Consolidate pre-procedure testing needs (e.g., COVID-19 PCR testing, blood bank testing, etc.),
 - b. Facilitate the availability of testing at ambulatory sites rather than the hospital, and
 - c. Use virtual care to collect and discuss information.
- ii. To maximize symptom and exposure screening and testing of patients, hospitals should assure consistent implementation of policies for screening and pre-procedure testing across all procedure areas. Each procedure area should identify who is responsible for:
 - a. Ordering the test,
 - b. Communicating with the patient regarding the need to be tested and the process, and



- c. Following up on test results, including
 - Communicating with the procedural team regarding positive test results, and
 - Communicating with the patient regarding test results and whether to proceed with procedure.
- iii. Adopt best-practice telehealth models in use by fellow BILH hospitals. For example, some organizations are conducting pre-procedure symptom screening via a text-messaging-based system, while others are collecting this information via telephone.
- iv. To streamline communication around reduction of risk of nosocomial COVID-19 infection, facilities will use BILH-developed FAQs and talking points about transmission risk and the preventive measures in place to ensure the safety of patients undergoing elective procedures.
- v. To ensure consistency of messaging to patients and the community, BILH requires hospitals to educate procedural and anesthesiology staff on how to access and use the aforementioned communication tools.