PATIENT FAQ on Elective Surgeries

Q: Why was I given such short notice of this action?

A: Given the rapid increase of COVID-19 (coronavirus) care needs in Seattle and the region, Swedish has been limiting surgical procedures over the past week to allocate resources to coronavirus care, and to reduce risk of spreading infection to patients and caregivers. At this time, we believe it’s in the best interest of our patients and caregivers to temporarily stop all elective surgeries for non-life-threatening and non-urgent care so that caregivers can respond to the surge in coronavirus patients and safeguard staffing capacity and resources.

Q: I was scheduled for an elective surgery. What should I do now?

A: This decision was not made lightly. Swedish understands the impact this decision has on families and individuals. All patients with elective surgeries will be contacted directly by a Swedish caregiver and notified of the cancellation. They will work with you to reschedule as soon as possible.

Q: When will my surgery take place?

A: Your Swedish caregiver will make every effort to reschedule your surgery in a timely manner.

Q: What if I am scheduled for surgery for a life-threatening or urgent health matter?

A: The safety, health and well-being of our patients is top priority. If you are scheduled for surgery to treat an urgent and life-threatening condition, your procedure will proceed. Swedish will convene a multi-disciplinary committee to review cases that are time sensitive.