

Information Bulletin

May 12, 2020

Attention: Expedited Surgical Facilities Services
Subject: Update in response to COVID-19

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry issued an important update on March 23, 2020 for regulated health professionals in BC that all non-essential and elective services involving direct physical contact with patients should be reduced to minimal levels. Allowable exceptions include time-sensitive, emergent/urgent and essential cares.

On May 6, 2020, Premier John Horgan announced to allow elective surgeries to be rescheduled starting May 18, 2020.

Please be advised that WorkSafeBC is making an exception to honor the expedited fees for surgeries that were previously approved but were postponed due to the COVID-19 restrictions on elective surgeries. We shall restart the clock once surgeries can be resumed safely. Providers are not required to obtain a new authorization from WorkSafeBC on surgeries that had previously been approved. However, surgeons' offices should inform claim owners of the new surgery date once surgeries are rescheduled. Expedited timeliness requirements for both surgeons (including surgical assists and anesthesiologists) and surgical facilities will be waived for service delays due to the COVID-19 situation.

We appreciate your continued support during this difficult time.