

☑ For Your Information

April 8, 2020

This message is for pediatric providers from Dr. Blair Erb, physician lead of cardiology.

Updated Outpatient Cardiovascular Services Information**Here's what's happening...**

As you are aware, we are requesting that routine cardiovascular care be temporarily deferred, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, we have some new information regarding requests for monitors, stress testing, and echocardiograms.

Monitors

We will convert all requests for monitors to Preventice 30 day monitors or ZIO patches. The manufacturer will mail these devices to the patients with instructions for application and use.

Stress testing

Stress testing in an outpatient population is by definition, elective. A cardiologist will review all requests for stress testing. If there is concern for accelerated angina or ACS, please note that stress testing in this group is contraindicated. We implore you to use Bayes Theorem instead. If the pre-test probability of disease is high, begin empiric therapy (ASA, high dose atorvastatin or rosuvastatin, beta blockade, prn TNG) with advice to the patient to go to the ER should symptoms become unstable. We will review requests and those deemed to have a low pre-test probability of disease will not be scheduled. We will offer telehealth consultations for those with intermediate or a high pre-test probability of disease. It is very important in your conversations with your patients that you set reasonable expectations.

Echocardiograms

Outpatient echocardiograms will be provided only for clinically active/unstable patients and for those oncology patients in need of ongoing surveillance of LVEF. A cardiologist will review all requests for outpatient echocardiograms and if, based on the data provided, the test is deemed non-essential then Dr. Schneider or Dr. Erb will contact the requesting clinician.

For our pediatric colleagues, please contact your preferred pediatric cardiologist to verify the essential nature of your request and relay that information to us.

Here's why...

In establishing and following these new processes, we are better able to address and respond to the COVID-19 crisis while still being able to treat those patients who need immediate cardiac care.

Questions or comments? Contact Adam Pople, Bozeman Health Cardiology Clinic, operations manager, at 406-414-4286 or APople@bozemanhealth.org.