

## Medical Group

### MEMO

To: UVM Health Network Providers

From: Claude Deschamps, MD, President and CEO, UVM Health Network Medical Group  
Howard Schapiro, MD, Chief Population Health & Quality Officer, UVM Health Network

Re: Radiology Network Department Services

Date: March 17, 2020

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Dear UVMHN Colleagues,

In order to support the Network directive to suspend all non-urgent elective encounters, we would like to communicate about UVMHN Radiology Network Department services.

The Network radiology department teams at all sites have started to reschedule non-urgent outpatient radiology visits such as screening mammography, lung cancer screening and other non-emergent or elective exams or procedures.

Radiology Division Chiefs and their teams at each facility will oversee the protocol and prioritization of urgent vs. non-urgent radiology studies. We have developed a plan to review all scheduled patients based on urgency, clinical history and CDC guidelines. Teams of radiologists and supervisors will manage imaging requests. When necessary, radiologists will have direct communication with ordering providers to determine urgency. Postponed patients will have scheduling priority when the elective schedule opens.

Some specific information:

#### **Radiology services remain open for urgent and emergent indications**

**Pediatric Radiology:** A pediatric radiologist or delegate will review studies requested by a pediatric specialist

**Oncology:** For the safety of patients with cancer and in conjunction with oncology leadership, the current recommendation is to minimize Radiology Department imaging for cancer patients when possible. At this time, radiology tests and procedures needed for the immediate care plan for cancer patients will continue. Therefore, we ask all providers to be thoughtful about imaging as few cancer patients as possible without adversely impacting outcomes. Ordering providers may be contacted by or may contact radiologists for consultation as necessary.

**Breast Imaging:** Diagnostic studies such as patients with palpable lumps or newly identified mammographic findings and biopsies will be triaged on a case by case basis. Short interval follow-ups of likely benign findings and surveillance for cancer patients will be deferred.

**Interventional Radiology:** Remains open for all emergent and urgent procedures. In order to protect patients, we will be reviewing and potentially rescheduling procedures that can be safely pushed back by several weeks. If any outpatient procedures need to be performed urgently then we will do so.

We are attempting to keep some outpatient facilities designated for imaging of immunocompromised and cancer patients. **Please do not send patients with flu symptoms to:**

Tilley Drive  
UVMHC ACC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Radiology  
Breast Care Center (UVMHC ACC)  
Valcour Imaging in Plattsburgh  
Open MRI Plattsburgh  
Womens Imaging Center - CVPH

Also, please be aware that current guidelines require an imaging room to be closed for 2 hours and deep cleaned following COVID-19 patient exposure. An increasing volume of case positive patients may impact our ability to care for other emergencies.

We will work with you to take the best possible care of our patients.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kristen DeStigter, MD, FACR, Chair of Radiology, ([Kristen.DeStigter@uvmhealth.org](mailto:Kristen.DeStigter@uvmhealth.org)) with any questions.