

April 22, 2021

Dear Member,

Yesterday, the College received notification that the Chief Medical Officer of Health had taken the step of reissuing [Directive #2 for Health Care Providers \(Regulated Health Professionals or Persons who operate a Group Practice of Regulated Health Professionals\)](#) with the following updates:

#### Update

- In order to preserve system capacity to deal effectively with COVID-19, CMOH Directive #2 has been updated and requires all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures to cease, with the exception of surgeries and procedures performed in pediatric specialty hospitals. Emergent and urgent surgeries will not be impacted. All patients should continue to have access to other health services, including services that are peripheral to surgical services and pain management services.

**This version of Directive #2 is not intended to stop all non-urgent health care services.** The Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Centre has confirmed that this version of Directive 2 is intended to preserve health human resources for redeployment to intensive care where needed and to stop procedures that could tax intensive care resources (e.g., procedures that carry higher risks of hospitalization or utilize health human resources that could be redeployed to intensive care). All patients should continue to have access to other health services, including pain management services and services that are peripheral to surgical services.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has reiterated that clinicians are in the best position to determine what are urgent and emergent surgeries and procedures in their specific health practice.

We are waiting for clarification from government on their position regarding where more invasive procedures fit in the new directive. We will be consulting with the other health regulators once this clarification is received and will update registrants as soon as we have new or more specific information.

Registrants are reminded that the College's guidance about practising in the Context of COVID-19 and its guidance regarding the use of PPE, for example, are still to be followed. You can find the College's guidance regarding [COVID-19 here](#) and [COVID-19 FAQs for Practitioners](#).



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