



PHG Update: August 17, 2021

Dear Valued Providers:

We want to be a resource to our Premier Health Group Independent providers. We will continue to provide clinical and operational updates as they become available to support the provider community, but not as frequently as we had before.

We want to ensure the brief continues to bring our providers helpful and useful information. To this end, we will release a new provider brief every other month moving forward, unless communication becomes available more frequently that we feel is vital to share with you.

In addition, we have created a resources page on the [PHG website](#).

Please feel free to contact us directly at (937) 499-7441 if you have any questions

Yours sincerely,

Matt

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IN THIS ISSUE

Update: Screening COVID-19 Tests for Perioperative and Admitted Patients

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Over the last month, much of the US, including our region, has experienced a resurgence of COVID-19 mostly due to the Delta variant. This variant of the virus has been responsible for a more rapid spread in disease as well as some increase in breakthrough infection in those fully vaccinated. While the vaccine remains highly effective, it is apparent that the higher viral loads with the Delta variant and increased community prevalence currently can overcome the protection offered by the vaccine in some situations. To help protect our patients and clinical teams, we are making modifications to our preoperative vaccination procedures effective for surgeries on or after August 19, 2021. As we progress into the next few weeks and months, we will continue to monitor disease activity and adjust our procedures if necessary.

[Please see flyer for updates.](#) Updates are also outlined below.

- I. Outpatient and Inpatient Perioperative Testing (Changes from previous in **bold**)
 - A. COVID test only required in:
 - 1. Any patients undergoing open lung or airway procedures unless a positive test was obtained in the 180 days prior.
 - 2. **Any patient undergoing procedures under general anesthesia regardless of vaccination status unless a positive test was obtained in the 180 days prior.**
 - 3. **Any patient undergoing upper endoscopy regardless of vaccination status unless a positive test was obtained in the 180 days prior.**
 - B. For patients with a positive test, unless contraindicated due to need, recommend delay surgery for 7 weeks from onset of symptoms or test result, whichever is earliest.

- II. Medical/Surgical Admission (Previously Universal Testing)
 - A. COVID test is only required for the following patients:
 - 1. Patients admitted with respiratory or non-respiratory symptoms suspected to be secondary to ACTIVE COVID-19 infection unless a positive test was obtained in the 180 days prior.
 - 2. Patients being admitted to the inpatient Behavioral Health Unit unless there is documented proof of either infection within 180 days or patient being fully vaccinated.
 - B. Do not retest within 180 days of previous positive test unless the patient is immunosuppressed with a known new exposure or symptoms.