

From: Sandra Chagnon on Behalf of Norm Stachelek
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 11:58 AM
Subject: Please read the message below from Norm Stachelek

MEMO

TO: Cooley Dickinson Hospital General Medical Staff

FROM: Estevan Garcia, MD, DrPH, MPA
Chief Medical Officer

Joanne Levin MD
Medical Director, Infection Prevention

Cathy Reed MBA, MT(ASCP)
Administrative Director, Clinical Services

DATE: August 6, 2020

RE: New COVID Testing Criteria

COVID testing shortages are common around the country. We are lucky here in Massachusetts that we have had adequate testing capability for the last few months, even in the face of growing demand.

However we have reached our limit for now. Not only are we limited in personnel and ability to obtain specimens in our Drive-thru Testing area, but we also face shortages of reagents and capabilities by our referral labs.

Given this situation, effective today, “Provider Discretion” will no longer be an accepted reason for a COVID test order.

We will continue to prioritize symptomatic ED patients, admitted patients, and employees for rapid testing. We will continue do pre-procedure testing, testing of symptomatic patients and all of the other necessary tests listed on the test order sheet attached. “Provider discretion “ orders received prior to today will be honored.

For patients who request testing for travel or other personal/social reasons, we recommend you refer them to other test sites. A comprehensive list, including state pop-up sites, can be found here:

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

CDMG providers area asked to use the same EPIC ordering tool but to NOT use the provider discretion option. Non-CDMG providers may use the attached new order sheet. Currently it takes 1-3 days to schedule patients in the Drive-thru. At the moment our results are coming back in 24-48 hours. Please let your patients know that it may take several days for them to receive a call

to schedule their test after the order is submitted. Symptomatic patients should be advised to quarantine during that time.

We understand how frustrating it is not to be able to provide what your patients want or need, and we are similarly frustrated. This policy change is an effort to ensure testing resources are available for the people who need them the most. Please know we continue to do all we can – along with the Mass Hospital Association and others – to advocate for national and statewide initiatives that will increase the overall testing capacity in Massachusetts.

We appreciate your understanding, and will continue to keep you updated as our capabilities change through this unprecedented pandemic.

Joanne Levin, MD
Medical Director
Infection Prevention
Cooley Dickinson Hospital

Infection Prevention is Everybody's Business!