COVID TESTING REFUSAL

For situational awareness regarding consent to testing for COVID-19

As AAH gets back into elective and other non-COVID-focused care and treatment, some patients may refuse COVID-19 testing.

Despite the concerns, outside of governmental involvement that would be separate and apart from the role of AAH, patients have a right to refuse COVID-19 testing for any reason, either in the acute care or ambulatory setting. We owe a duty to treat them regardless, and have a simultaneous and overlapping duty to provide for a reasonably safe environment for our employees, independent providers, and visitors on our hospital campuses, medical offices, and the like.

As guidance, AAH leadership would like to help clarify how to handle COVID testing refusals. If a patient refuses recommended COVID testing in the hospital or ambulatory setting, the involved clinicians will need to assess the patient’s constellation of symptoms to assess the likelihood of COVID infection, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic. The patient should be advised that they may be excluded from some ambulatory settings, and the specific location of their care may be affected. Of course, if emergency treatment and stabilization is needed, the patient would be admitted to a “COVID unit” or elsewhere based upon reasonable suspicion for infection status and standard and/or COVID PPE.
Patients may refuse COVID testing, but such a refusal may change the location and other aspects of their care and treatment. After attempting to convince them to be tested, please contact leadership and other consulting departments for assistance.

**Practice Update:**
- **PATIENTS MAY REFUSE COVID TESTING, BUT THE SITE OF THEIR CARE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF TREATMENT MAY BE AFFECTED IN SUCH CASES. USE CAUTION IN SUCH SITUATIONS, AND CONSULT LEADERSHIP AND ANCILLARY DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING INFECTIOUS DISEASE/INFECTION PREVENTION, RISK MANAGEMENT, PATIENT SAFETY, AND SIMILAR.**

**EPIC Change:** NO CHANGE

- Further education forthcoming
- **X** No further education is planned

Effective 5/20/20

For questions contact: Risk Management

Updated/Revised: N/A

Remove Flyer by: 8/30/20