

14 May 2020

ASPS Update regarding elective surgery

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) acknowledges the risk posed to the community, health workers and all patients due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

As the number of Australian cases has stabilized, but will continue to ebb and flow, the national and state governments will be making ongoing changes to what elective surgeries will become available.

We still hold the safety of our patients, our members and the public as a priority and strongly support low risk and high reward procedures, especially where significant relief to patients can be offered. Age, region, pre-existing illness and severity of symptoms all need to be assessed before a specific decision to operate can be made for any one patient.

Adherence must still be made to the recommendations for social distancing and the 1.5m rule. Clinics, rooms and hospitals must still ensure regular screening of patients and visitors and exceptional hygiene and cleaning. Any sick or unwell staff or patient must not attend and ensure they get adequate screening and testing as required.

News: In South Australia, all elective surgery can resume as restrictions are lifted from midnight Wednesday 13th May.

This is a boost for thousands of patients on waiting lists. South Australia will become the first state to begin to fully restore elective surgery with the lifting of the Appropriate Surgery Direction under the Emergency Management Declaration.

As states and territories begin to consider lifting some restrictions, we will further update regarding elective procedures.

Local and Regional Factors: Hospital, local, and regional regulatory bodies will determine the actual practice in each hospital or facility. Thus, ASPS recognises that the timing and implementation of a resumption of elective procedures is dependent on local and regional factors. We recommend that patients continue to liaise with their surgeons or local hospital to better determine the where they stand for their individual situation.

Ongoing Assessment: The dynamic nature of the COVID-19 crisis will necessitate ongoing assessments and notifications as any new information comes to hand.