



# Statement on Non-essential Office Visits, Procedures and Surgeries

North Dakota Medical Association Council previously stated that it is the official position of NDMA that determining whether or not to continue with a procedure or surgery is best left between the physician and patient, keeping in mind the guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Further clarification of that position regarding non-essential office visits, procedures and surgeries:

NDMA supports the following CDC recommendations:

Healthcare facilities and clinicians should prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures now and for the coming several weeks. The following actions can preserve staff, personal protective equipment, and patient care supplies; ensure staff and patient safety; and expand available hospital capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Delay all elective ambulatory healthcare professional visits
- Reschedule elective and non-urgent admissions
- Delay inpatient and outpatient elective surgical and procedural cases

NDMA urges all hospital systems to adopt measures and procedures consistent to these guidelines.

It is the further position of NDMA that if a physician determines a visit, admission, surgery or procedure is non-essential, then hospital administration should defer to those decisions.

March 31, 2020