

Considering Postponing Care during COVID-19?

If you are considering delaying medical care such as a procedure or medical appointments during COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus), it is important to understand any potential impacts to your health and well-being. The questions suggested in this tool are provided to help you discuss medical appointment or procedure delays with your healthcare provider.

An additional resource to support your discussion is the [COVID-19 Patient Discussion Tool](#).



Make sure to ask your healthcare provider for their advice when deciding whether or not to postpone care. This tool was made without COVID-19 vaccination status in mind. If you are vaccinated or plan to be vaccinated, please make sure to ask how that would change your care plan.

For questions or to provide feedback, please email Patientfeedback@mdic.org



Instructions

Before speaking with your healthcare provider, make sure to read through all of the questions in this tool. As you read through the document, pick the questions that are meaningful to you. Consider using your patient portal to ask your healthcare provider any extra questions you may have before your appointment. If you are not able to get all of your questions answered, consider using your patient portal to ask your healthcare provider any extra questions you may have!





1 If you are considering delaying a procedure:

1. How might delaying a recommended procedure affect my medical condition now or in the future?
2. Would any delay possibly affect my quality of life, life expectancy, or lifestyle? If so, what should I expect?
3. If I decide to delay this procedure, is telehealth or remote treatments (e.g., phone, computer) an option to monitor/treat my condition? If so, is this a long-term option or just a “placeholder” during this delay?
4. Are there any devices available to me to help me with telehealth or remote visits (e.g., phone, computer)? If so, how can I get access to them?



2 If you are considering delaying medical appointments (e.g., check-up, screening):

1. Can this routine appointment be done via telehealth (e.g., phone, computer)?
2. Are there any devices available to me to help me with telehealth or remote visits? If so, how can I get access to them?
3. Are there any at-home devices or tools that I can use to monitor my condition instead of, or between appointments? If so, how can I get access to them?
4. What are the potential complications of my condition if I delay medical appointments of ANY kind for my condition?
5. Can I still get access to my prescriptions if I delay my appointment or treatment?
6. How will my recovery be affected if I get COVID-19?



3 If you are not feeling well and considering if you need an in-person appointment:

1. Are there ways for me to have a telehealth meeting with my healthcare provider to better understand my situation and concerns/risks with postponing care?
2. Are there things that my healthcare provider and I can do together to monitor my health without an in-person appointment? How can I use my wearable devices to track my health in the meantime?
3. Are there symptoms or conditions that I should be more aware of or worried about that would mean I need to seek in-person medical attention immediately? What are some symptoms or conditions that I should be aware of if I defer care for an extended amount of time?
4. Could I stay at home to recover or should I seek treatment?
5. What is the current COVID-19 situation in my area? Are hospitals overcrowded? Are we experiencing a high number of cases? For more COVID-19 related questions about receiving in-person care, please use MDIC's first [Patient Discussion Tool](#).