

EXCLUSIVE: Local Hospital Chains, Clinics Begin To Lift Restrictions On Procedures Postponed Because Of COVID

By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Several major healthcare companies, including Advanced Aurora and Froedtert, are resuming a number of the procedures, tests and appointments that had been postponed or dropped altogether because of fears of COVID-19 overwhelming the healthcare system.

A number of outpatient procedures at Froedtert facilities that had been put on hold are now being scheduled. In addition, many procedures at Aurora will be resuming May 1. I personally was able to schedule some procedures that had been put on indefinite hold until today.

The moves come as it has become clear that there is no patient surge because of COVID-19. As of today, there are only 355 COVID patients hospitalized in all facilities in Wisconsin combined.

Some of the hospital chains cited guidance from the federal office that administers Medicare to postpone elective procedures. Yesterday, that office, CMS, revised its guidance and urged facilities in areas with low COVID patient counts to resume procedures. A myriad of procedures have been called off in Wisconsin, including mammograms, prostate screenings, joint replacement, lab testing, physical exams, colonoscopies and numerous other procedures. I have harshly criticized the decisions on my program and have been contacted by many patients desperate for care. It looks like that care may now be resuming now that it is apparent that the COVID patient volumes were terribly overestimated.

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