COVID-19 Recovery Updated - May 1, 2020

MassTex Imaging will now be seeing patients that have recovered from COVID-19 following hospitalization, whether due to pre-existing dysphagia, overall deconditioning from the Coronavirus infection or impaired airway protection secondary to prolonged intubation. MassTex Imaging will only see patients that have met the CDC criteria for “Discontinuation of Transmission Based Precautions” as outlined on the CDC website, which as of 4/27/2020 includes the following:

1. **Test-based strategy.**
   - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
   - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
   - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens). See [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)].

2. **Non-test-based strategy.**
   - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and,
   - At least 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

What we need from the referral sources:

- Written documentation (See attached forms) signed by the ordering physician/NP/PA stating the patient has met all test or non-test based requirements.
- If a patient has received two negative test results in stated guidelines, we will require copies of negative test results prior to scheduling the patient OR positive antibody test 30 days from initial symptoms.
- If a home health patient resides in a state (e.g NH) where DHHS generates a letter stating the individual is released from isolation, MassTex Imaging will require a copy of this documentation.

What we are doing to keep all patients safe:

- Recovered COVID-19 patients will be required to wear a gown and face mask provided by the facility. The patient's face mask may be removed for testing but must be donned as soon as testing is complete.
- All MassTex staff including drivers, SLPs, and MDs will be required to wear gloves, gown, N95 and surgical mask during contact with the patient. SLPs will be required to additionally wear a face shield during contact with the patient.
- Any surgical mask, gloves, face shield, or gown worn during assessment of the patient will be treated as infectious material and will be discarded in a separate, designated trash bag which will be disposed of at the facility.
- Once the patient has exited the van, all cleaning/disinfecting procedures outlined in prior procedures/protocols will be implemented.
- When possible, these patients will be scheduled at the end of the scheduled day. If multiple patients are scheduled to be seen at a facility these patients must be seen last.