We are facing unprecedented times with the COVID-19 pandemic. As healthcare professionals, it is important to work together and find efficient ways to collaborate, so the focus can be on the delivery of care for patients. We are coming together as the hospital industry association and the ambulatory surgery center industry association, in an effort to help layout some neutral starting points for discussion, which may help expedite agreements between an ASC and a partner hospital. Attached is a one-page review of how an ASC may be able to potentially connect with a hospital partner. Below are some general recommendations to consider:

- Communication is key, and the most important step is for ASCs and hospitals to be determining what would be the most supportive, given the needs and capabilities within a partnership.

- OASCA encourages our ASC member facilities that are planning to close to share inventory of surplus PPE, nursing staff, and other useful information with a local hospital partner (such as Joint Venture, emergency transfer agreement, or closest physical proximity to facility).

- OAHHS recommends that hospitals to test out support/offloading possibilities now, BEFORE a crisis or 100% bed count. Perhaps this could be having an ASC take the emergency case that is under their current scope and just eases the load for the surgical department at the hospital. If these agreements are tested out even with one or a handful of patients, then the wrinkles are ironed out and the system will operate much more smoothly if capacity is reached and the need is dire.

- OHA has issued recommended clinical guidelines, which may be useful for agreements relating to standard of clinical care, after facilities identify the types of services, acuity of care and patients.

- We understand reimbursement can be a difficult discussion, but a necessary one. There are numerous ways hospitals and ASCs can go about this conversation. Recommendations by a percentage of HOPD rate and a percentage for administration of the bill to a sub-lease agreement for equipment and nursing staff.

Overall, we appreciate all of the efforts you are making to address the COVID-19 pandemic. You are doing the work of champions, and we hope this information is beneficial to expanding the healthcare capacity throughout Oregon. Please feel free to contact your industry association for resources, and we will do our best to help with your request.