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## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESIDENTS OF GENERAL SURGERY IN THE FACE OF THE SARS COV-2 PANDEMIC**

### **FROM THE SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF SURGERY (AEC)**

You are all aware of the situation in which we find ourselves. We have to continue taking care of our surgical patients, but each of us must take extreme precautions to avoid further infections.

We are facing new measures this week, which we hope will allow us to control the transmission of the disease and to help ensure continuity of care. These measures can be reviewed in the coming days as the staff's situation evolves, as well as the regional or national situation.

Although the situation changes from one region to another and may change from day to day, in most Services the elective oncological surgery is maintained in initially healthy patients during this week, but remember to keep the same precautions with them, as well as with all hospitalized patients. There is a possibility that this types of surgeries may not continue in the next few days.

It is recommended to optimize the organization of work so that the residents who come to the hospital are as few as possible and each one has a previously designated specific work objectives.

In many Services, morning sessions are going to be suspended so each one will go to their workplace directly. It seems that the long sleeve of the lab coat can be a vehicle of propagation, so it is better to put on scubs and maximize hand washing.

While on call, avoid unnecessary walks through the Emergency Department and plan the assistance that you are going to give to urgent patients before attending them (medical history, examination, request for tests and first treatment at the same time). Remember that you can call to ask questions without having to wait to see another resident or the attending physician in person.

During surgery in patients with COVID19 or highly suspected of having it, priority will be given to performing a fast and safe surgery for the patient and healthcare personnel and not to surgical training. Follow the rules that the AEC has given.

Remember the work areas, offices, and classrooms, must be kept ventilated and the safety distance between the doctors must be kept, as well as with the rest of the hospital staff.

It is going to be a very intense few weeks, so those of you who are at home due to infection and those who have to rest, do not rush because this is a long-distance race. When at home make sure you rest to offer the best assistance when it's time to return to work.

It is very important that you protect yourself, in the next few days you will probably be given training in PPE.

Your attendings, tutors, chiefs, and the AEC are here for what you need both from assistance and also a personal point of view.

Cheers to everyone, together and coordinated we can overcome this.