

COVID-19 elective procedure update

UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) appreciates the compassion and dedication with which you care for our members, your patients. UniCare recognizes the intense demands facing doctors, hospitals and all health care providers in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. UniCare will work closely with our state partners gathering further information and directives.

Update

Effective April 28, 2020, [West Virginia Executive Order 28-20](#), health care providers can begin resuming elective procedures upon application, review and approval by Office of Health Facility Licensure & Certification (OHFLAC). The Order specifies criteria that health care providers must meet in order to receive approval from OHFLAC.

UniCare members still have access to urgent, medically necessary procedures like those needed to preserve the patient's life or long-term health. *Executive Orders 16-20 and 28-20* applies equally to all types of elective medical procedures performed in hospitals, offices, and clinics throughout the state. The term *elective* includes medical procedures that are not immediately medically necessary to preserve the patient's life or long-term health, except procedures that cannot be postponed without compromising the patient's long-term health, procedures that cannot be performed consistent with other law at a later date, or procedures that are religiously mandated shall not be considered *elective* under the Executive Orders.

Other helpful links:

- [WV DHHR Coronavirus Disease](#) is the source for the latest information about COVID-19.
- [Coronavirus.gov](#) is the CDC's website for the latest information about COVID-19 prevention, symptoms and answers to common questions.
- [USA.gov](#) has the latest information about what the U.S. government is doing in response to COVID-19.
- Review your infection prevention and control policies and [CDC's recommendations](#) for health care facilities for COVID-19.
- Refer to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) for the most up-to-date recommendations about COVID-19 including signs and symptoms, diagnostic testing, and treatment information.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication contact our Customer Care Center at **1-800-782-0095**.