

### **A Gradual Approach to Resuming Scheduled Care on June 1<sup>st</sup>**

- Yesterday, HSN received approval from the COVID-19 Northern Ontario Regional Steering Committee and Ontario Health (North) to resume as of June 1<sup>st</sup> procedures that were postponed. Last night, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health also lifted restrictions to allow for the gradual restart of clinical services.
- In mid-March, following direction from the Minister of Health, Ontario hospitals ceased non-urgent elective surgeries and procedures. Since March 15<sup>th</sup>, HSN postponed over 4,400 non-urgent scheduled surgeries and minor procedures. During that period, over 1,000 emergency surgeries and urgent minor procedures were performed. Postponing these activities has been challenging for patients, families and our medical staff.
- Over the weekend, Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health with Public Health Sudbury and Districts, confirmed the required criteria were met in our community for the hospital to resume elective surgeries and non-urgent procedures.
- To be clear, not all services will resume on June 1<sup>st</sup>. It will take time to reschedule services and all of this hinges on a number of factors including PPE, bed occupancy, availability of drugs and supplies, ability to maintain safe physical distancing, and our human resource capacity.
- Going forward, should there be a sudden surge of COVID-19 cases, HSN needs to be able to readily access 10% of our beds. This is why a cautious and gradual approach to the initial resumption is required to closely monitor any impacts to our operations. This will roll out in phases.
- Phase 1 of the recovery plan at HSN will focus on the reintroduction of surgical and cardiac procedures and tests where patients generally need up to 48 hours to recover in hospital. This will include up to about 200 surgical cases per week, or 60% of our normal activity.
- Phase 2 will focus on some surgeries where patients will require more than two days of recovery in hospital, and may begin in July. During phase 3, HSN will increase to 75% of normal case activity.
- It's important to note that the hospital may need to stay in a specific phase for several weeks at a time, or longer, or return to an earlier phase depending on occupancy, PPE and drug supply status.
- HSN will be contacting patients directly to reschedule their procedures. HSN is asking patients and the public to not call the hospital or surgeon's offices to ask when they will be rescheduled.
- HSN will continue to monitor and reassess this plan on an ongoing basis, especially if there is a sudden surge in COVID-19 cases in the community.