

FOOT & ANKLE CENTER OF ILLINOIS MAKES A DIFFERENCE DURING COVID-19



**Submitted by
Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois**

Since the spread of the COVID-19 virus into the United States, medical practitioners have redirected their focus from improving quality of life to saving life itself. This past March, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced recommendations to limit all non-essential (elective) surgeries and procedures, including dental, to free-up personal protective equipment (PPE) and focus efforts of care on patients most in need.

CMS provided a three-tiered framework to identify surgical services and procedures that require emergent or urgent attention to save a life, preserve organ function, and avoid further harm from underlying condition or disease. Decisions, however, remain the responsibility of local healthcare delivery systems, including state and local health officials, and those surgeons

who have a direct responsibility to their patients. CMS has suspended elective surgeries with exceptions being made for cases of an emergent nature.

According to Dr. Sigle, "We are fortunate to offer a comprehensive array of services to our patients because we have advanced technology and support services in one location. Outpatient procedures and minor surgeries continue to be provided along with advanced diagnostic imaging, ultrasound, laser treatments, and injections. We also provide casting and fittings for braces, orthotics, and assisted walking devices."

According to Dr. Gonzalez, "Although our elective surgeries have been temporarily rescheduled for a month or two, we continue to perform minor surgical procedures in the clinic and treat ingrown toenails, minor hammertoe tendon releases, diabetic wound care, plantar fasciitis, shin splints, ankle sprains, Achilles' tendon injuries, toenail fungus, corns, calluses,

and warts. Our lasers are also being used for toenail fungus treatments and pain therapy."

"Our advanced extremity MRI and CT Scanner also allow us to review surgical options with patients and plan for our surgeries in advance," said Dr. Sigle.

While the nation strives to improve mitigation efforts and develop effective antibodies and vaccines, leaders are determined to roll out a re-entry plan for our economy in a prudent manner. Elective surgeries that were rescheduled will resume in the coming months.

According to Dr. Sigle, "Most of our clinics remain open to new and existing patients. We are pre-screening patients, using hospital-grade sanitizers, and taking several measures to ensure that patients maintain social distancing. We also took steps to improve the air quality in our clinic. We installed a new air purification system in our

heating, ventilating, and cooling (HVAC) system that has a UV light to reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sterilize mold bacteria viruses and allergens, inhibit mold growth in the HVAC, and improve air quality."

According to Dr. Gonzalez, "We continue to see patients in an effort to keep them from seeking treatment at urgent care clinics and hospital emergency departments; and to reduce their chances of being exposed to the virus. Advanced imaging, ultrasound, laser services, pharmacy, and foot and ankle specialty products are available at our Springfield practice to prevent patients from having to go elsewhere."

Several innovative procedures have also been implemented at the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois to improve safety. These include:

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**We are open to serve the public
during this pandemic.**

John Sigle
DPM, FACFAS



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- Virtual Healthcare

“At the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois, we believe in making a difference during these unusual times. We are committed to safely meeting the needs of our patients and communities,” said Dr. Sigle.

If you are experiencing foot or ankle pain, call the Foot & Ankle Center of Illinois call 217-787-2700 to schedule a consult. Board-certified surgeons are available during the COVID-19 crisis to serve you.

Visit myfootandanklecenter.com for additional information and to schedule an E-Appointment on-line.