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ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGARDING THE SCHEDULING AND PERFORMANCE OF URGENT ELECTIVE INVASIVE PROCEDURES

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. The Public Health Council has approved and authorized me to take such actions, incur such liabilities, and establish such rules, requirements, and procedures which are necessary to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, consistent with the Governor's declaration.

Accordingly, having received that authorization from the Council, and with the approval of the Governor, I issue the following Order:

To protect patients and healthcare workforce and conserve resources, including personal protective equipment, a health care provider that has submitted an attestation to the state certifying that they meet clinical, capacity, safety standards, and governance requirements to resume providing high-priority preventative care and urgent procedures or services that cannot be delivered remotely and would lead to high risk or significant worsening of the patient's condition if deferred shall implement procedures published by the Department of Public Health regarding the scheduling and performance of such urgent elective invasive procedures. Any such health care provider that has not submitted the attestation shall not perform any non-essential elective invasive procedures. Providers subject to this order must continue to comply with all applicable statutes, regulations and guidance not inconsistent with this Order.

This Order shall remain in effect from May 18, 2020, until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
May 18, 2020