Stay at Home Order Applicability Regarding Dental, Medical and Surgical Procedures

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) reminds medical providers including dentists, physicians, and other medical providers of the current statewide stay-at-home order’s applicability to dental, medical and surgical procedures.

In this regard, through close of business on April 30, all such procedures are to be postponed, subject to two exceptions:

a. Dental, medical, or surgical procedures necessary to treat an emergency medical condition. For purposes of this order, “emergency medical condition” is defined as a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain, psychiatric disturbances, and/or symptoms of substance abuse) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected by a person’s licensed medical provider to result in placing the health of the person in serious jeopardy or causing serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of bodily organs.

b. Dental, medical, or surgical procedures necessary to avoid serious harm from an underlying condition or disease, or necessary as part of a patient’s ongoing and active treatment.

While ADPH fully respects a physician’s clinical judgment as to whether either of these two exceptions apply, it is expected that physicians will make decisions on a case-by-case basis in consideration of each patient’s individual circumstances. Decisions that a particular procedure meets one of the exceptions in all cases should be avoided.

Further, this order applies to all settings, i.e., procedures taking place in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, and private offices.

At this time, the Department cannot affirmatively state whether this prohibition will be extended beyond April 30.