ANZAOMS Guidelines for Elective Procedure Categorisation – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
5 April 2020

Following the announcement by the federal government of restrictions on elective surgery, many members and health organisations have sought clarification on what conditions may be eligible for elective category 1 or urgent category 2 status. In an effort to bring clarity to this issue, ANZAOMS offers the following list of appropriate conditions that may require time-sensitive urgent treatment. The status of any individual patient’s requirements should be determined by the treating clinician utilising their best judgement and taking into account the needs of the hospital system they work in and the broader community.

Category 1 Conditions/Procedures

- Head and Neck/Oral Cancer.
- Biopsy of an aggressive or potentially malignant tumour that cannot be diagnosed in any other way.
- Craniofacial hard and soft tissue trauma.
- Dentoalveolar trauma.
- Infections not responding to non-surgical measures that will lead to emergency care within 30 days- Includes oral infections, peri-orbital cellulitis/abscess and head & neck infections.
- Post-surgical complication requiring return to theatre.

Category 2 Conditions/Procedures

- Infections not responding to non-surgical measures that carries a high risk of requiring emergency care within 90 days e.g.:
  - Acute tooth pulpitis/fracture requiring extraction of the tooth.
  - Pericoronitis (refractory to non-surgical measures) requiring surgical tooth removal.
- Severe sialadenitis requiring surgical management.
- Management of a special needs patient where delay in treatment carries a high risk to the patient’s health e.g.:
  - Immunocompromised.
  - Undergoing chemotherapy.
  - Planned for head and neck radiotherapy.