Member Update

Restoration of Elective Surgeries
19 May 2020

On Friday 15 May 2020, the Prime Minister announced that National Cabinet had agreed to reopen elective surgery, by removing restrictions and restoring hospital activity involving 3 stages.

It was further advised that it is a decision of each jurisdiction to determine which stage applies to its circumstances, the timeline for implementation and the level of normal surgical activity is safely restored in line with the agreed principles. The stages are:

- **Stage 1** – up to 50 per cent of normal surgical activity levels (including reportable and non-reportable);
- **Stage 2** – up to 75 per cent of normal surgical activity levels (including reportable and non-reportable);
- **Stage 3** – up to 100 per cent of normal surgical activity levels (including reportable and non-reportable) or as close to normal activity levels as is safely possible.

Following this announcement, ANZAOMS would like to advise that our guidance to Members has similarly been updated to remove any restrictions on the types of surgical procedure able to be undertaken by Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

ANZAOMS would like to stress however, that with the staged approach to the opening up of elective surgery lists, there will be significant variations by jurisdiction and even between hospitals as to what that means for OMS access to elective lists. Clinicians are urged to use individual judgement and to adhere to advice from government and health departments within your state or jurisdiction, as well as individual hospital guidance.

**PPE**

ANZAOMS has also considered our existing PPE advice to Members and amended to suggest that treatments can proceed in low risk stratified patients utilising standard PPE.

Kind regards

Dr Dimitrios Nikolarakos
President