



PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL
SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.



PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ULTRASOUND IN
OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

DATE: **May 1, 2020**
TO: **ALL PSUOG MEMBERS and ALL SONOLOGISTS**
SUBJECT: **REITERATION OF KEEPING HCW AND PATIENTS SAFE IN THIS COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Dear Doctors,

We hope this letter finds you safe and healthy.

We are aware that you are preparing to go back to your clinics. Under the guidelines of the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) which is now imposed on majority of the provinces in the Philippines, medical services, which include OB-GYN ultrasound practice, may operate. We would like to remind you of general guidelines to protect yourselves, your staff and your patients from contracting and transmitting the SARS-CoV-2 (official name of the virus causing COVID-19 infection).

1. Triageing before the patient enters the clinic.
 - a. All cases should be by appointment to avoid crowding.
 - b. We maintain the recommendation that you choose cases which are emergency and/or in urgent need of an ultrasound. This is not the time to do social ultrasound procedures.
 - c. Screen patients outside the clinic.
 - d. If a patient is deemed to need testing for COVID-19, refer the patient to the nearest testing center.

2. Prepare the physical plant with the following:
 - a. Disinfecting foot bath before entering the clinic.
 - b. Social distancing in the waiting area.
 - c. A plastic barrier between your staff and the patients.
 - d. Disinfecting solution in the waiting area.
 - e. Proper ventilation, preferably an exhaust fan.

3. Prepare the ultrasound area.
 - a. Use at least an acrylic box, or plastic shield, which is disinfected after each patient.
 - b. Disinfect bed and change linen after each patient. Disposable linens, plastic covers or paper may be used.
 - c. Disinfect the probes after each patient.

4. Protect the doctors and staff with PPEs. We are considered MODERATE RISK, hence level 3 PPEs should be used. You may want to visit the following sites for your reference.
 - d. <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/hp7366-guidelines-for-ppe-use-in-healthcare-poster-25-april2020.pdf>
 - e. https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/hp7353_02_-_ppe_ipc_poster_community_midwives.pdf
5. Protect the patients by requiring them to wear a face mask at all times.
6. Protect the clinic with a declaration of health by the patient, contact numbers for possible contact tracing, and a waiver.

The items listed above are minimum requirements. We leave it to your section/clinic to look into the details. We would like to remind everyone that NO ONE is safe from this virus. The vaccine for it is still 12-18 months away. So, let us all act with precaution. What is important is that we protect ourselves and the patients we serve.

We are one with you in your efforts to be responsible citizens and sonologists. We heal as one.

Sincerely,



FLORENTINA A. VILLANUEVA, MD

Secretary, Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology

NOTED BY:



MARILOU U. DE VERA, MD

President, Philippine Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology