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### **Pediatric Surgery Nurses Lead and Coordinate COVID-19 Recovery Efforts**

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# Pediatric Surgery Nurses Lead and Coordinate COVID-19 Recovery Efforts

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## Background

- Adult nonessential surgeries cancelled due to COVID (CDC, 2020)
- Disproportionally affected children
- No formal notification process to parents and children
- No prioritization to evaluate children when rescheduling surgeries
- Non-licensed personnel had to call patients to cancel and reschedule
- Families experienced uncertainty and potential harm from delays

## Purpose

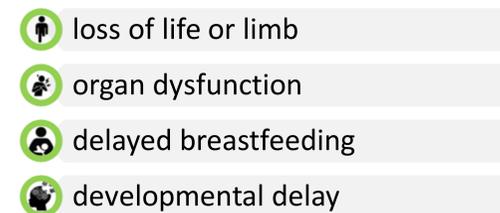
To investigate best practices for prioritizing rescheduling of elective pediatric surgeries following unplanned cancellation.

## Methods

- Integrative literature review conducted
- The Cochrane Library, CINAHL and OVID databases searched
- Key words "pediatric surgeries", "delayed", "COVID-19", and "nursing assessment"
- Retrieved evidence was limited to 2018-2020 and included:
  1. peer-reviewed publications
  2. government websites
  3. evidence-based healthcare organizations

## Results (25 sources)

- A total of 25 evidence-based sources met search criteria.
- Literature supports a need to reschedule surgeries prioritizing children for whom continued surgical delay increase risk for:



- Pediatric Registered Nurses are skilled to assess needs of at-risk children requiring priority for rescheduling elective surgery.



## Recommendations

### Near Future

- Use consistent patient-facing language when cancelling surgeries
- Follow up with families experiencing rescheduling delays
- Re-establish trust
- Educate families on rescheduling criteria, process, and estimated wait times
- Create a 'frequently asked questions' document
- Work with surgeons and administrators to design policies around elective surgery rescheduling

### Distant Future

- Establish pediatric surgery nurse-led interdisciplinary teams
- Use the EMR to auto-generate and analyze cancelled surgery lists
- Activate a queue for contact calls with children and families
- Partner nurses with schedulers to assess and diagnose emergent, urgent, and elective needs of each child
- Develop strategies to advocate for each child
- Report clinical outcomes on a dashboard
- Educate care teams as conditions and roles change
- Engage stakeholders and government leaders

## Acknowledgements

Slidell, M.B.. et al.. (2020).