**Please use the below template to communicate your hospital/practice protocols and safety procedures with your patients prior to the catheter ablation procedure. Update the template according to your hospital/practice regulations.**

Header: Your safety is our top priority

Alternative header: Catheter ablation procedures resume on <*Date>* at <*Hospital or Practice Name*>

Alternative header: A message from <*Hospital or Practice Name>* CEO <*CEO Name>*

Thank you for your support over these past couple months as we navigate through this pandemic together.

In effort to preserve personal protective equipment and keep hospital beds open for potential coronavirus patients, *<Hospital or Practice Name>* halted elective procedures for the past two months. In accordance with state guidelines, we are now resuming elective procedures, including catheter ablation, effective <*Date>* at <*Hospital or Practice Name>*. Catheter ablation is a critical procedure that will result in an improved quality of life and overall improved health for patients with heart arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation (AFib).1 <*We encourage you to take the next step to treat your AFib by contacting one of our staff to discuss catheter ablation or We encourage you to take the next step to treat your AFib by scheduling your catheter ablation procedure as recommended by your physician.>*

AFib is a progressive disease that becomes harder to treat as the disease advances over time and as treatment is delayed.2 Patients with AFib are at five times risk for stroke and heart failure.1,3 We are making every effort to treat patients’ chronic conditions, such as atrial fibrillation, that oftentimes lead to emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Early intervention is critical.

We have implemented robust protocols to ensure the safety of you, your family and our staff, and are committed to providing the best care for you. We know you may have questions about our new protocols in place and want to share with you the new enhancements in our hospital.

***All staff and patients are tested for coronavirus symptoms prior to entering the hospital.***

*<Staff are tested daily for coronavirus symptoms before entering the hospital. Anyone who tests positive for the coronavirus, has a fever, or shows coronavirus symptoms will not be allowed to enter.>*

All patients scheduled for elective procedures will be tested for coronavirus <*with a nasal swab*> within 48 hours of their procedure. Please self-isolate immediately following your test. Our staff will provide you with more information prior to your procedure.

To keep patients and staff safe, we have established the following safeguards at *<Hospital or Practice Name>.*

* **Temperature checks** – Before anyone enters the hospital, they are required to have their temperature taken. Anyone with a fever will be sent home and asked to self-quarantine for 14 days.
* **Family members –** In effort to reduce the number of people entering the hospital, each patient is allowed 1 family member to enter the hospital on the day of their procedure. This family member will need to test negative for the coronavirus and will be escorted to the waiting room after their temperature is checked.
* **Social distancing and facial masks** – Everyone entering the hospital is required to stay 6 feet apart from others and wear facial masks that cover both the nose and mouth. *<Masks will be provided for patients and family members. or Cloth and homemade masks are acceptable for patients and family members.>*
* **Sanitation measures –** Keeping the hospital sanitized has always been a priority at *<insert hospital name>*. We have taken additional precautions by *<insert precautions such as disinfecting restrooms, waiting rooms, and common areas every hour>*.

When it’s safe to do so, we will discharge patients the same day as their procedure. Ask your doctor for more information.

Watch this short video to hear *<from an AFib ablation patient just like you OR from your electrophysiologist/chief of staff>*.

We are here to make your experience with us a comfortable and safe one and look forward to welcoming you back to our hospital.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Hospital/Practice Name

1. Hugh Calkins, Gerhard Hindricks, Ricardo Cappato, et al. 2017 HRS/EHRA/ECAS/APHRS/SOLAECE expert consensus statement on catheter ablation and surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation. 2017.
2. Ashok J Shah et al. The Progressive Nature of Atrial Fibrillation:A Rationale for Early Restoration and Maintenance of Sinus Rhythm. J Atr Fibrillation. 2013 Aug-Sep; 6(2): 849.
3. Ayodele Odutayo, et. all. Atrial fibrillation and risks of cardiovascular disease, renal disease, and death: systematic review and metaanalysis. BMJ 2016;354:i4482

Other questions to consider in your email:

* How long will a negative coronavirus test be valid?
* How will coronavirus patients be isolated from patients coming to the hospital for elective procedures?
* Where will pre-procedure testing be done?
* Where will patients enter the hospital?
* How will patients be monitored post-procedure?
* Will anesthesia be available for catheter ablation procedures?