Memo: SCCA Outpatient Staff, changes to outpatient dressing change policies
From: SCCA Infection Prevention

As the COVID-19 situation continues to challenge our hospital systems, we have seen increasing challenges in personal protective equipment (PPE) for outpatient clinics. In order to anticipate future needs and support PPE conservation for those situations where it is most needed, we have made the decision to update some of our outpatient policies.

The policies below have been updated to reflect that only nurses are to don masks during these types of dressing changes. Patients and caregivers will no longer be given masks for these procedures. Patients will be instructed turn their head away from the site for these procedures. Caregivers will remain a minimum of 4 feet from the patient during the dressing change.

You can read the complete policies by clicking the links below:

- Implanted Port Management (COVID-19 Response)
- Non-tunneled Central Venous Catheter (CVC) Management (COVID-19 Response)
- PICC and Midline Management (COVID-19 Response)

It is important to know that we do not feel these changes in policy will impact patient care or outcomes. All teams should continue to emphasize standard precautions for all patients and focus on using hand gel and hand washing.

We understand this change may cause concern for some of our patients and their families. To that end, we have included some talking points to support you in having these conversations. The talking points below are only a guideline; feel free to use your own words.

Talking Points for Patients or Caregivers with Concerns:

- **Patient or caregiver asks why the policy changed**
  - I know this is different from what you’re used to. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, there is a shortage of masks across the world. While SCCA is doing its part to secure more supply, SCCA medical directors are also reviewing all procedures to determine if a mask is necessary. We are discontinuing the use of masks for procedures that only use masks out of an abundance of caution. There is no greater risk to you (or your loved one) if a mask it not used for this dressing change. I want to assure you that your safety is our top priority and this change will not impact your (or your loved one’s) care.

- **Patient wants their caregiver to stand closer**
  - Many of our patients have shared how important it is to have their caregivers with them. To protect you during the procedure, a sterile field requires your caregiver stay a minimum of 4 feet away while I change your dressing. Thank you for helping us keep you safe.