

PIONEERS

MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

As our Nation battles Covid-19, California is experiencing an unprecedented and exponential surge in cases. Staffing and other resources have become strained. Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District (PMHD) seeks to provide high quality, safe patient care to the community.

Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District has developed SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic Crisis Care Guidelines to manage a medical surge event which places the facility in crisis care due to a sudden increase in patients and critical shortages of resources. These guidelines are consistent with the All Facilities Letter (AFL) dated December 28, 2020, the California SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic Crisis Care Guidelines and the Crisis Care Guidelines Pre-Implementation Checklist.

The AFL directed all California healthcare facilities to develop or adopt crisis care guidelines to address the pandemic emergency. PMHD has also notified the California Department of Public Health and Imperial County Public Health Department via email of the guidelines adopted by our Medical Executive Committee and ratified by our Board of Directors. We have also publicly posted on our website.

The AFL explains that hospital care is provided along a continuum based on the severity of the pandemic surge and resources available to the hospital. It also describes a transition from conventional care, to contingency care, into crisis care, if necessary. PMHD is cooperating with mandates from both the state and federal governments to report detailed data on a daily basis in effort to facilitate the goal that no hospital address surge and crisis care plans in isolation, but work with its system, local and regional partners, as well as public health.

A public health emergency compels transition from individual patient-focused care to a population based public health approach with the goal of providing the best possible outcomes for the largest number of patients. Crisis care strategies will only be implemented when assistance within our community, region and state is inadequate and cannot address the needs of those affected. In crisis care, healthcare decisions will be based on objective medical based evidence and will not be denied based on stereotypes, assessment of quality of life or discriminatory intent.

Consistent with this guidance, the PMHD medical staff have developed crisis care guidelines to address the potential to make determinations when resources may be inadequate for the needs of all the patients and difficult decisions will need to be made regarding allocation of available resources.