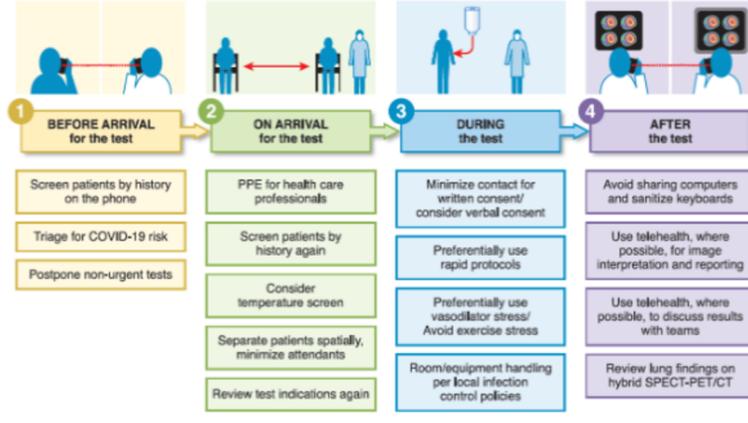


## NOW AVAILABLE

### ASNC/SNMMI Information Statement: Guidance & Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Labs During COVID-19



Last week, ASNC and the Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging released an advance copy of an information statement developed at breakneck pace to assist nuclear cardiology teams working amidst the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19. In just the first two days after the paper was posted, it was viewed more than 3,300 times, downloaded almost as much, reported on by [Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology](#) and [TCTMD](#), and the focus of a widely shared tweetorial. The Tweeters helpfully boiled the document down to the following four take-home messages while highlighting the paper's detailed guidance on protecting personnel, screening patients, choosing the right imaging protocol, and prioritizing indications.

#### Key Take-home Messages

1. Reschedule all nonurgent studies.
2. Perform only urgent studies that change patient care or early discharge.
3. Promote telehealth.
4. Use rapid protocols; avoid exercise testing.

The document's main infographic, shown above, illustrates steps for minimizing COVID-19 exposure during the patient's journey through the nuclear cardiology lab. "Guidance and Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: An Information Statement from ASNC and SNMMI" will be published in the *Journal of Nuclear Cardiology (JNC)*, the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, and *Circulation: Cardiovascular Imaging*.

Considering the need for this document, ASNC encourages you to download and share the preprint with your colleagues.

[ACCESS THE INFORMATION STATEMENT](#)

## Launching Today: ASNC Virtual Nuclear Cardiology Elective

To support trainee education during this challenging time, ASNC is offering complimentary live teaching sessions over the next two weeks. Starting Monday, April 6, and continuing each weekday through Friday, April 17, *ASNC Virtual Nuclear Cardiology Elective* will convene from **2:00 to 4:00 PM (US EDT)** via zoom video conferencing.

Each day's program will feature an ASNC leader delivering a 30-minute didactic lecture followed by 90 minutes of hands-on case interpretation of SPECT/PET/novel SPECT cases, including <sup>99m</sup>technetium SPECT myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI), <sup>99m</sup>Tc-pyrophosphate amyloid imaging, <sup>82</sup>rubidium-PET MPI, <sup>13</sup>N-ammonia PET MPI, <sup>18</sup>F-FDG myocardial imaging for viability, sarcoidosis, and infection. A tentative schedule is outlined [here](#).

"We know that most trainees are working under stressful conditions, trying to balance intense work schedules with their education," says **ASNC President Sharmila Dorbala, MD, MPH, FASNC**. "ASNC aims to support them at this difficult time, bringing them education from top nuclear cardiology experts."

You are invited to register for as many sessions as you like; however, **space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis**.

[REGISTER ASAP](#)

P.S. -- For trainees who are on clinical service and unable attend this two-week elective, ASNC will offer the video recording of these sessions.

## COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES

**AMA to Host National Physician Townhall.** AMA President Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, will host a live panel discussion on the "challenges and concerns" facing physicians during the COVID-19 crisis. Join **Thursday, April 9, from 1:00-2:30 PM (U.S. Central Time)**. [Register here](#).

**Small Business Administration Issues Interim Final Rules for Payroll Protection Program.** The program provides direct incentives for small businesses, including physician practices, to keep workers on payroll by providing each small business a loan up to \$10 million. Two interim final rules answer questions about program eligibility and loan forgiveness. [Read ASNC's summary](#).

**New CMS Guidance Allows Clinicians to Request Up to 100% of Medicare Payment for Up to 3 Months.** The *Accelerated and Advance Payment Program* is aimed at helping with cashflow during the COVID-19 pandemic. Repayment is due 120 days after payment issuance. [Read the fact sheet](#).

**CMS Clarifies Telehealth Billing Codes.** During the COVID-19 public health emergency, Medicare telehealth billing should include *the place of service code that would ordinarily be used plus the modifier 95*. The place of service code 02 should be used only if the service would previously have qualified as a telehealth service. [Share CMS's explanation with your coders](#).

**CMS Relaxes Stark Self-referral Rules Amid COVID-19.** Effective March 1 and continuing through the declared public health emergency, blanket waivers will allow financial relationships and referrals that are usually prohibited under Stark laws regarding self-referral. The waivers may be used without notifying CMS, though physicians must keep records. Note: The Stark waivers are for COVID-19 care only. [Read the details](#).

[COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER](#)

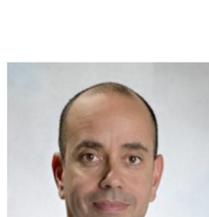
## ASNC UPDATES

**ASNC's Complimentary Online Curriculum for Fellows-in-Training Opens Today.** Starting the afternoon of Monday, April 6, *Online Nuclear Cardiology Curriculum: Open Access* will offer learn-at-your-own-pace education via recorded talks, guidelines and webinars on topics ranging from nuclear cardiology basics to new applications. [Access the curriculum](#).

**Mo-99 Shortages Possible in Some Areas.** In case you missed it, ASNC updated members about the status of Mo-99 supply lines on April 1. We're continuing to monitor the situation and will keep you informed. For now, ASNC is advising nuclear cardiologists to contact their generator supplier or radiopharmacies for information on whether delays are expected in their region. [Background here](#).

## ASNC IN THE NEWS

*Radiology Business Journal* Cites ASNC's Alert on Possible Mo-99 Supply. [Read the article](#).



#### DAIC Interviews Hicham Skali, MD, on ASNC/SNMMI Information Statement

Dr. Skali is first author of "Guidance and Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic." [Watch DAIC's video](#).

[LATEST NEWS](#)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### Staying Afloat During COVID-19: How-to Information for Practices

If your practice's volumes have plummeted and you're worried about how you'll stay afloat while continuing to employ your team, be sure to watch ASNC's "Virtual Visits: Utilizing Technology to Drive Patient Care & Appropriate Use." This timely webinar includes --

- How to deliver telehealth and bill for telehealth services
- How the following programs/funds work, how to apply, and why it's important to act quickly
  - Payroll Protection Program,
  - Economic Industry Disaster Loans,
  - Public Health & Social Services Emergency Fund, and
  - The Accelerated & Advance Payment Program.
- Short-term changes to MIPS and the Stark self-referral laws -- and what both changes could mean for you.

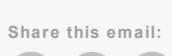
[WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)

**THE ASNC TEAM THANKS YOU FOR KEEPING US SAFE.**

**Take care. Stay well.**

ASNC | [info@asnc.org](mailto:info@asnc.org) | 703- 459-2555

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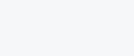
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