



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 13-04-ASC

DATE: November 9, 2012

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Surveyor Infection Control Educational Opportunity

Memorandum Summary

- **Educational Opportunity:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Survey and Certification Group (SCG) will provide funding for state surveyors to attend the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) “Infection Prevention for ASCs: Meeting CMS Conditions for Coverage” or the APIC Annual Educational Conference that includes tracks specifically for infection control in ASCs.
- **Nominations:** State Agencies may nominate ASC surveyors to attend the APIC ASC course given in April, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio, or the APIC Annual Conference in June, 2013 in Ft. Lauderdale.
- **Funding will cover travel, lodging, per diem, and registration costs.**

The ASC surveyor infection control worksheet places an increased focus on infection control practices in ASCs. Survey findings using this tool show a large percentage of ASCs with infection control deficiencies. The Association for Professionals in Infection Control has developed an instructional course to create and implement an effective and compliant infection prevention program aimed at the staff of ASCs. This course emphasizes the surveyor infection control worksheet and uses its elements to build the curriculum. In addition, the APIC Annual Educational Conference offers multiple educational programs that highlight both facility specific infection control issues as well as the current guidelines for prevention of infections.

Infection control is an important aspect of patient safety and many ASC surveyors have expressed an interest in having opportunities to improve their infection control knowledge. There is limited funding available to send a group of surveyors to these courses in an effort to enhance their ability to use the infection control worksheet and better assess infection control compliance during ASC surveys. SCG funds will cover travel, lodging, per diem, and registration costs. There are two dates for these APIC educational opportunities:

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The APIC ASC course takes place April 12-13, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio.

The APIC Annual Educational Conference takes place June 8-10, 2013 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Most of the surveyors will attend the ASC course but a few will be able to attend the Annual Conference. Please specify which meeting is preferable. Due to the limited funding, submit and prioritize up to three nominations per state. Please respond with nominations to Dr. Daniel Schwartz at daniel.schwartz2@cms.hhs.gov no later than Friday, December 28, 2012.

Effective Date: Immediately. This information should be communicated with all survey and certification managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management