



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 16-04-ALL

DATE: October 16, 2015

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: State Surveyor Infection Control Educational Opportunity

Memorandum Summary

- **Educational Opportunity:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will provide funding for selected State surveyors to attend the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) “ASC 101” Course or the APIC Annual Educational Conference that includes tracks specifically for infection control in Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs).
- **Nominations:** State Agencies (SA) may nominate ASC surveyors to attend the APIC ASC 101 Course given April 18 through April 20, 2016 in San Diego, CA or September 12 through September 14, 2016 in Orlando, FL; or the APIC Annual Conference from June 11 to June 13, 2016 in Charlotte, NC.

Funding will cover travel, lodging, per diem, and registration costs.

Background

The Hospital and ASC surveyor infection control worksheets place an increased focus on infection control practices in these facilities. APIC 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 Conference offers multiple educational programs that highlight facility specific infection control issues and current guidelines for prevention of infections.

Infection control is an important aspect of patient safety and many State surveyors have expressed an interest in having opportunities to improve their infection control knowledge. There is funding available to send selected surveyors to the APIC ASC 101 Course or the APIC Annual Conference in an effort to enhance their ability to better assess infection control compliance during surveys. Federal funds will cover travel, lodging, per diem, and registration costs. Selected State surveyors may attend **one** these APIC educational opportunities:

The APIC ASC 101 course takes place April 18-20, 2016 in San Diego, CA. or September 12-14, 2016 in Orlando FL.

The APIC Annual Educational Conference takes place June 11-13 in Charlotte, NC.

Each SA may submit and prioritize up to three nominations. At least one surveyor will be selected from each SA, depending on the number of SAs that submit nominations. Surveyors may choose to attend either of the ASC courses or the Annual Conference. The SA must specify each surveyor's meeting preference with the nomination.

Contact: Please respond with nominations to Dr. Daniel Schwartz at daniel.schwartz2@cms.hhs.gov no later than December 18, 2015. In January, 2016, Dr. Schwartz will contact each SA with the names of surveyors selected to attend these courses, instructions for registration and hotel reservations, and funding options.

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