

Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) **Continued Efforts over the Past Years**

Definition of an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)

Medicare-certified ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) operate exclusively for the purpose of providing surgical services to patients who do not require hospitalization and whose expected duration of services does not exceed 24 hours.

Medicare-certified ASCs must comply with Medicare health and safety standards found at 42 CFR Part 416, including the Conditions for Coverage (CfCs). There are approximately 5500 Medicare-certified ASCs in the US.

Accreditation Organizations with CMS-Approved ASC Deemed Status Programs

Currently there are five:

- Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc (AAAHC)
- American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF)
- Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)
- Institute for Medical Quality (IMQ)
- The Joint Commission (TJC)

Infection Control Surveyor Worksheet Use and Collection

Starting in FY2011, CMS made it a standard policy that 25% of ASCs would be surveyed each year, and incorporated the expanded infection control protocols and improved survey methods as part of standard operating procedure. Every 2-3 years, CMS has sent the SAs a randomly selected list of ASCs to be surveyed using the infection control surveyor worksheet and then requested SAs to submit the completed worksheet for analysis. Due to the worksheet being used on all full surveys as part of the standard survey process as well as a focused effort on burden reduction, CMS will not be sending out a list and will not be collecting worksheets in FY2019. As CMS builds and explores the capabilities of iQies there may be future opportunities to upload completed worksheets as part of the survey kit for CMS to collect as needed.

Beneficial Surveyor and ASC Facility Online Training Courses

The following courses are available 24/7 online via the CMS Integrated Surveyor Training Website (<https://surveyortraining.cms.hhs.gov>) for ASC surveyors as well as Medicare-certified ASCs and may be useful:

- Ambulatory Surgical Center Basic Training
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Refresher Training
- Universal Infection Prevention and Control

ASC Resource Information

For More Information About...	Resource
ASC Regulations – Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) 42 CFR 416.2 - 54	http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=e01cd47ee54f1061862f7dc7f41e5647&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title42/42cfr416_main_02.tpl
ASC Interpretive Guidelines State Operations Manual: Appendix L	http://cms.hhs.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107a_p_1_ambulatory.pdf
ASC Infection Control Surveyor Worksheet	http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107_exhibit_351.pdf