



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Admin Info: 15-08-ASC

DATE: November 14, 2014

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 (CMS), Survey and Certification Group (SCG) will provide funding for state surveyors to attend the Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) “ASC 101” or the APIC Annual Educational Conference that includes tracks specifically for infection control in ASCs.
- **Nominations:** State Agencies (SA) may nominate ASC surveyors to attend the APIC ASC 101 course given March 19-21, 2015 in Seattle, WA and September 21-23 in Austin, TX, or the APIC Annual Conference from June 27-29, 2015 in Nashville, TN.

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 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 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. In Fiscal Year 2014, a total of 53 surveyors from 35 States were funded. Federal funds will cover travel, lodging, per diem, and registration costs. There are three dates for these APIC educational opportunities:

The APIC ASC 101 course takes place March 19-21, 2015 in Seattle, WA and September 21-23 in Austin, TX.

The APIC Annual Educational Conference takes place June 27-29, 2015 in Nashville, TN.

Due to the limited funding, each SA may submit and prioritize up to three nominations. At least one surveyor will be selected from each SA, with perhaps one or two others, depending on the number of SAs that submit nominations. Surveyors may choose to attend either of the ASC courses or the Annual Conference. Please specify each surveyor's meeting preference with the nomination. Surveyors may request pre-funding for the March ASC course and Annual Conference, but must request pre-funding for the ASC course in September.

Each SA that would like to take advantage of this opportunity must respond with nominations to Dr. Daniel Schwartz at daniel.schwartz2@cms.hhs.gov no later than Monday, December 29, 2014. In January, 2015, 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