

# Ambulatory Surgical Centers Workinggroup Update

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# Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) Background

- CMS defines ASCs as distinct entities that exclusively provide surgical services to patients who do not require hospitalization or a stay >24 hours
- Other venues for ambulatory surgery include hospital outpatient departments and physician offices
- Currently, >5,300 U.S. Medicare-certified ASCs
  - ~25% are accredited (by AAAHC, AAAASF, TJC or AOA)
- 2007: > 6 million procedures performed in ASCs and paid for by Medicare at a cost of nearly \$3 billion
  - >70% of claims are for endoscopy, eye (e.g., cataract removal), and spinal/lower back injections
- ASCs are surveyed to measure compliance with Conditions for Coverage (CfCs)
  - 2008: expanded infection control requirements
  - 2009: infection control worksheet and 3-year cycle implemented

# Ambulatory Surgical Centers Interagency Workgroup

- **Formed January 2010**
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
  - Indian Health Service (IHS)
  - HHS Office of Healthcare Quality
- **Action Plan**
  - **HAI prevention needs**
    - Proactive HAI Prevention at the Clinic Level
    - Sustain and Expand Improvements in Oversight and Monitoring
    - Develop Meaningful HAI Surveillance and Reporting Procedures
  - **Outline of Next Steps**

[http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/tier2\\_ambulatory.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/tier2_ambulatory.html)

# ASC Workgroup Activities – Stakeholder Meetings

- Action Step 1: Engage Stakeholders to Facilitate Collaboration and Promote a Culture of Safety
- Series of meetings held with HHS Divisions, Accrediting Organizations, State HAI Programs / Agencies / Hospital Associations / Quality Improvement Organizations, professional groups, providers, consumers and other stakeholders
  - Sept. 24, 2010 – Progress Toward Eliminating HAI ; day 2 session on ASC Action Plan and Measurable Goals
  - Oct. 20, 2010 – Public Health Collaboration Models for Infection Prevention in Licensed Healthcare Settings: Focus on ASCs
  - March 10, 2011 – ASCs: Implementing Strategies to Enhance Infection Control and Prevention Practices
  - May 3, 2011 – ASC Association Infection Prevention Summit

"The best tool for assuring infection prevention practices in ASCs is an engaged and involved staff that put the patient first, employing current evidence-based guidelines, performing regular quality audits, and ensuring the staff understand and execute the procedures outlined in a policy."

-- **Dr. Steven Gordon**, President,  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

<http://www.hpnonline.com/inside/2011-03/1103-IP-ASCs.html>

# Selected ASC Workgroup Activities / Updates

## ▪ Safety Culture

- Plans for using and adapting the AHRQ Medical Office Survey on Patient Safety Culture to obtain baseline cultural assessments and developing a related ASC Patients' Perspectives of Care Survey

## ▪ Improved Process of Care

- Ongoing collaboration between CMS, CDC, and State Survey Agencies to review infection control deficiencies identified through inspections
- AHRQ project to develop a socio-technical probabilistic risk assessment (STPRA) model on surgical site infections in ASCs

→ Optimized adherence to infection control procedures

→ Scalable process, device, or facility design improvements

→ Targeted education and prevention initiatives

# Selected ASC Workgroup Activities / Updates

## ▪ Education and Training

- Completed an inventory of stakeholder prevention, education, training, and outreach resources and activities
- Infection Prevention Training for Ambulatory Surgical Centers
  - OHQ-sponsored HHS Region II project which developed in-person training for NY/NJ/PR ASC staff with support from CDC, CMS, APIC, and other partners including HAI Programs and health departments
- Workshops on “Infection Prevention for ASCs: Meeting CMS Conditions for Coverage” hosted by Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
  - 3 sessions in 2011 including one that was attended by nearly 100 surveyors and CMS staff
- CMS Survey and Certification Group “Blackboard Course” for ASC Surveyors in development

# Selected ASC Workgroup Activities

- **Education and Training (continued)**
    - HHS OHQ promotion package
      - Region II workshop highlights (free web-based CME)
        - Hand Hygiene, Sterilization and Disinfection, Safe Injection Practices, and Environmental Infection Control
      - CDC Guide to Infection Prevention for Outpatient Settings: *Minimum Expectations for Safe Care*, 2011
        - Distillation of existing, evidence-based guidelines
        - Companion *Checklist* for assessing staff practices and facility policies and procedures
      - Unsafe Injection Practices: Outbreaks, Incidents, and Root Causes
        - New CDC no-cost, web-based CME course on *Medscape*
- <http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/settings/outpatient/outpatient-settings.html>

# Selected ASC Workgroup Activities / Updates

## ■ Surveillance and Reporting

- Establish numbers and types of ASC procedures
- Identify or develop a set of ASC procedures or procedure categories and associated CPT codes that are suitable for use in surveillance and reporting (e.g., follow up for SSI)
- Research into novel SSI and other HAI surveillance methods that utilize electronic health record data mining and clinical validation procedures
- Improve identification, communication, and investigation of outbreaks or serious breaches in infection control, especially those involving risks for bloodborne pathogens (e.g. hepatitis C virus\*)
- State mandates for SSI reporting from ASCs
  - Currently, CO, MA, NV, NH are using NHSN for this purpose

\* <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hepatitis/>

# Looking Forward

- Sustaining/improving ASC inspections
- Tailored education/training (by ASC specialty)
- Value Based Purchasing, HAI outcomes and quality measure reporting requirements\*
- Cross-linkage with HHS Action Plan to Prevent and Treat Viral Hepatitis
- Close, growing partnership with partners (AOs, industry, professional groups, consumers, etcetera)

\*Report to Congress: Medicare ASC Value-Based Purchasing Implementation Plan  
[http://www.cms.gov/ASCPayment/downloads/C\\_ASC\\_RTC%202011.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/ASCPayment/downloads/C_ASC_RTC%202011.pdf)

# Thank You

[http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/tier2\\_ambulatory.html](http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/tier2_ambulatory.html)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.