

Wyoming Department of Health, Office of Healthcare Licensing and Surveys ARRA Impact

Ambulatory Surgical Centers Healthcare-Associated Infection Control Program

Objectives: This funding is designed to enhance regulatory oversight by state survey agencies of Medicare participating Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) to encourage these facilities to implement strategies to reduce healthcare-associated infections. For more information, visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/initiatives/hai/infection.html>

Reasons: ASCs in the United States have been the fastest growing provider type participating in Medicare, increasing in number by more than 38% between 2002 and 2007. A 2008 Hepatitis C outbreak in Nevada was traced to poor infection control practices at various ASCs (potentially affecting more than 50,000 people). Follow-up surveys throughout Nevada found serious deficiencies at 64% of the ASCs, primarily with infection control practices.

Goals:

- (a) Improving survey agency inspection capability and frequency for onsite surveys of ASCs nationwide,
- (b) Using a new infection control survey tool developed by the CDC and CMS,
- (c) Improving the survey process through the use of a CMS tracer methodology, and
- (d) Using multi-person teams for ASCs over a certain size or complexity.

Uses of Funds: States may use the funds to defray the cost of ASC surveys, and necessary supports for those surveys.

Overview of Action Plan:

- Train current OHLS health surveyors on the new survey tool and protocols.
- Increase significantly the inspection of the number of ASCs in this state. If approved for FFY 2009, we will survey 4 ASCs using the new protocol. If approved for FFY 2010 we will survey 6 ASCs prior to October 1, 2010.
- Where inspections identify Condition-level (serious) deficiencies, ensure that the ASC remedies the findings in a timely manner.

Estimated Range of Available Funding for Wyoming:

- FY 2009 – \$2,864.64 – \$5,968.00 (Deadline for application to CMS is June 30, 2009. Allocations will be made to states by the end of June for implementation in the last quarter of FY 2009.)
- FY 2010 - \$21,484.80 - \$60,157.44 (Deadline for application to CMS is August 1, 2009 and this will be provided as part of the grant.)
- No state match is required for the ASC Stimulus Fund project.

Consequences if funding not received:

- Both the volume and complexity of the surgical procedures performed at ASCs are expanding exponentially. Serious infection control problems have been discovered at every ASC facility surveyed utilizing the revised protocols. Failure to survey ASCs poses a significant risk to health and safety of our citizens who utilize these Wyoming facilities.