

ASC Quality Collaboration

News Release

For more information

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ASC Quality Collaboration Supports Call by Congress to Require the Development of Quality Reporting for Hospital Outpatient Services and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Services

The ASC Quality Collaboration applauds action by Congress to make the quality information on services in hospital outpatients and ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) available to the public. This action will enhance the ability of the public to make health care choices and advance the objectives of the ASC Quality Collaboration and is consistent with the commitment made to the CMS Administrator in July 2006 “strongly endorsing the vision that measures of quality that are appropriate to ASCs should be congruent with measures utilized for other settings including outpatient surgery.”

Earlier this year leaders from the ambulatory surgery center (ASC) industry and associations with a focus on health care quality and safety formed the ASC Quality Collaboration, to engage in a mutual effort to identify specific measures for quality that are appropriate to ASCs. This leadership group envisioned a set of quality measures that could become the standard throughout outpatient surgery settings. These standards will be used in discussions on pay-for-performance, responding to state data collection initiatives, collaborating with payors and others in providing consumer information, and benchmarking information primarily for quality improvement goals in individual ASCs.

“As ASCs provide exceptionally high quality and value to Medicare beneficiaries as well as to the Medicare program, the ASC Quality Collaboration looks forward to working in close partnership with CMS to implement quality measurement that leads to improved patient care in all outpatient surgical settings,” said Donna Slosburg, coordinator for the ASC Quality Collaboration.

ASCs are health care facilities which offer patients the opportunity to have selected surgical and procedural services performed outside the hospital setting. More than fifteen million Americans will undergo surgery in an ASC this year. Recent surveys show average patient satisfaction levels in ASCs exceeding 90 percent. Safe and high quality services, ease of scheduling, greater personal attention and lower costs are among the main reasons cited for the growing popularity of ASCs as a place for having surgery.

The ASC Quality Collaboration includes the following organizations: Accreditation Association Ambulatory for Health Care (AAAHC), American Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers (AAASC), American College of Surgeons (ACS), Division of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation American Osteopathic Association (AOA), AmSurg, Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), CMS Quality Improvement Group, FASA, HealthSouth, The Joint Commission, National Surgical Care, NovaMed LLC, Nueterra Healthcare, Symbion Inc, and United Surgical Partners International (USPI).

For more information, please contact any of the members of the ASC Quality Collaboration or our ASC Quality Collaboration coordinator, Donna Slosburg, at 727-867-0072 or donnaslosburg@ascquality.org.

The ASC Quality Collaboration is dedicated to advancing high quality, physician-led and patient-centered care in ambulatory surgery centers.