

CASCA Leaders Meet with CMS Western Regional Officials on Conditions of Coverage

“The proposed conditions of coverage will dramatically impact patient care and our ability to provide quality affordable care,” stated Kurt Kindsfater, M.D., from the Orthopedic Center of the Rockies in Fort Collins, in a meeting with CMS officials.

Kindsfater added that he has performed four total-joint procedures, which he believed saved “between \$60-\$80,000 for the insurance carrier and the patient.”

CASCA officials requested a meeting with Mark Gilbert, CMS Western Regional Administrator, upon further examination of the proposed conditions of coverage that would negatively impact convalescent care.

CASCA President Rosalie Bodenhammer led a group including Rob Carrera, President of Pinnacle III; Craig Davis, M.D. and CASCA Treasurer; Rebecca Craig, past President representing Harmony Surgery Center; Sue Hayes, Chair of the CASCA Government Relations Committee, Rocky Mountain Surgery Center; Mike Bergerson of OCR and CASCA Board Member. Calling into the meeting were Ahsan Khan, FASA Regulatory Counsel Ron Wisor; Lee Grant, M.D.; and Kurt Kindsfater, M.D.

Carrera, President of Pinnacle III, agreed with Dr. Kindsfater, stating, “procedures of ASCs are at least 1/3 less than those performed at hospitals.”

Bodenhammer stressed, “The industry has a 30-year track record and there are very few problems. This proposed charge would cripple our industry.”

In response to a question posed by Mr. Gilbert, Attorney Wisor explained, “14 states expressly allow for an overnight stay in any ASC while 20 sites allow for an overnight stay in an ASC or a certified overnight unit connected to an ASC.”

Dr. Davis explained that for a patient who has a procedure that requires an overnight stay, it is important to note “the nurse to patient ratio is one nurse to four patients, nursing is more specialized and the co-pays are lower. We place a true emphasis on quality patient care.”

A follow-up letter has been sent to Mark Gilbert, which is on the CASCA website at <http://www.cascacolorado.com/?p=406>.

