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EMAIL ALERT

Proposed Changes to ASC Admission Requirements

As a condition of licensure by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division ("CDPHE"), ASCs must comply with the requirements specified in Chapter XX of the Standards for Hospitals and Health Facilities promulgated by the State Board of Health (6 C.C.R. 1011-1, Ch. 20). CDPHE has proposed a change to Chapter XX which, if adopted, would significantly modify the nature of physician written certifications prior to the procedure.

Currently, Chapter XX, Section VII.D.1. requires:

The patient must be in good health or have mild systemic disease which is under good control and does not require special management. Patient status shall be documented by the admitting physician.

CDPHE's proposed change would replace the above language with the following:

The physician performing the procedure shall document in writing that the patient is in good health or that any pre-existing health conditions are adequately controlled, require no special management and are such that the planned procedure will not pose a significant risk to the patient.

CDPHE states that the proposed change is designed to reflect the higher acuity of patients receiving surgery in ASCs while maintaining patient safety. Prior to a patient's procedure, an ASC would be obligated to ensure that the patient's record included these certifications by the physician who will perform the procedure. The proposed regulation has no definitions for "good health," "adequately controlled," "special management," or "significant risk."

A Board of Health public hearing regarding the proposed regulation is scheduled for November 17, 2010, with the hearing time to be determined approximately 10 days prior. Individuals may participate by providing written comments to the State Board of Health before the hearing, or by making oral comments during the hearing. CASCA will be coordinating a meeting with representatives of

CDPHE to discuss the proposed rule change before the hearing. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the process, please contact Rob Schwartz, Executive Director of CASCA, at 303.761.1048.

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