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EMAIL ALERT

Surgical Techs and Assistants Must be Registered by April 1st

Pursuant to a law passed last year by the Colorado legislature, C.R.S. §§ 12-43.2-101 *et seq.*, surgical technologists and surgical assistants must register with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (“DORA”) by April 1, 2011. A person who is not registered and regularly performs the surgical technologist or surgical assistant duties described in the statute commits a misdemeanor offense punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. ASCs are required to verify registration of surgical technologists and surgical assistants prior to allowing them to perform their duties, and must notify DORA within two weeks after any disciplinary action or investigation based on failure to be properly registered.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) will incorporate verification of surgical technologist and surgical assistant registration into its ASC certification and licensing surveys in the same manner it currently verifies qualifications of an ASC’s physicians and nurses. Failure to ensure that surgical technologists and surgical assistants are properly registered could result in a survey citation and adversely affect an ASC’s license. All surgical technologist and surgical assistant registrations will expire on March 31st of each year, so ASCs will need to monitor registrations in order to ensure that they remain valid.

Because the April 1, 2011 deadline is established by statutory law, DORA is unable to delay implementation of the registration requirement. Accordingly, ASCs should notify their surgical technologists and surgical assistants of the registration requirement as soon as possible. The processing time for complete applications is currently less than 2 weeks, but may take longer for incomplete applications that are missing required information. There are no education or experience requirements associated with registration, and the application fee is \$45. The registration application, registration database, relevant statute, and answers to frequently asked questions can be viewed on DORA’s website at: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/sa-st/licensure.htm>.

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