

**GROUP FORMS TO PROMOTE STANDARD QUALITY MEASUREMENT IN
AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS**

Leaders from the ambulatory surgery center (ASC) industry and associations with a focus on healthcare quality and safety have formed a leadership group, called the ASC Quality Collaboration, to engage in a mutual effort to identify specific measures for quality that are appropriate to ASCs. This leadership group envisions a set of quality measures that could become the standard throughout outpatient surgery settings. These measures 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.

The ASC Quality Collaboration has engaged an expert workgroup to develop standard surgery measures. The development of these measures involves representatives from a wide-range of stakeholders. This would include ASC clinical and administrative leaders, health policy researchers, CMS and other key federal and state governmental agencies. Initial workgroup meetings identified measures that are currently in use, required or under development by the industry or other quality organizations. These include National Quality Forum (NQF), Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), Ambulatory care Quality Alliance (AQA) and Surgical Quality Alliance (SQA).

The ASC Quality Collaboration will work with CMS to make these quality measures a key element of the revamped ASC payment system that is expected to be implemented in January of 2008.

The leadership group on the ASC Quality Collaboration includes:

Cliff Adlerz, President, Symbion
Kathy Bryant, President, Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (FASA)
John Burke, PhD, Executive Director and CEO, Accreditation Assoc Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)
Joe Clark, President, HEALTHSOUTH
Tom Hall, President, Novamed
David Hunt, MD, Medical Officer, CMS Quality Improvement Group
Craig Jeffries, Executive Director, American Association Ambulatory Surgery Centers (AAASC)
Bill Jessee, MD, President and CEO, MGMA
Michael Kulczycki, Executive Director, Joint Commission
Ken McDonald, President, AmSurg
Ellen K Murphy, MS, JD, FAAN, Interim Executive Director, Association periOperative RN (AORN)
Richard Pence, COO, National Surgical Care
Tom Russell, Executive Director, American College of Surgeons (ACS)
George Reuther, Director, Division of Healthcare Facilities Accreditation, American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
John Schario, Executive Vice President, Nueterra
David Shapiro, MD, American Association Ambulatory Surgery Centers (AAASC)
Donna Slosburg, BSN, LHRM, CASC, Coordinator ASC Quality Collaboration
Bill Wilcox, President and CEO, United Surgical Partners Inc (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 donnajeandjack@yahoo.com

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