

Q&A: Office-Based Surgery (OBS) Accreditation in New York State

Q. *What's all the talk about Office-Based Surgery (OBS) accreditation in New York State?*

A. The Governor of New York signed a new law on July 14, 2007, mandating accreditation and adverse event reporting for many – but not all – office-based surgery practices in the state of New York. The link below provides details of the new OBS law:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/office-based_surgery/index.htm

Q. *Has The Joint Commission been officially designated by New York State to accredit these practices?*

A. Yes. On December 28, 2007, the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) designated The Joint Commission as an accreditor for OBS practices in New York State.

Q. *What types of surgery and surgical practices are impacted by the NY OBS law?*

A. The types of surgical practices impacted are those conducting surgery or invasive procedures AND using the following levels of anesthesia:

- Moderate sedation or deep sedation
 - General anesthesia;
- OR
- Liposuction procedures over 500cc's (see the above link for more information).

Q. *What types of surgery are excluded from the NY OBS law?*

A. The NY OBS law states, "procedures involving minimal sedation or which meet the definition of 'minor procedures' may be performed in an office which is not accredited."

Q. *Are there exceptions to the NY OBS law?*

A. Yes. Practices exempted from the NY OBS law are podiatric practices & dentists (as they are not regulated by the New York Department of Health).

Q. *Does OBS accreditation apply to the practice or the practitioner?*

A. OBS accreditation applies to the practice only, **not** the physician.

Q. *Does The Joint Commission have special architectural requirements for OBS practices?*

A. The Joint Commission does not have special architectural requirements for OBS practices if they DO NOT keep four (4) or more patients under anesthesia at any one time.



OBS NY Q&A (Cont'd)

Q. *How have OBS practitioners in New York been informed about the new law?*

A. The NY Department of Health notified all physicians in NY State regarding the mandate for OBS accreditation through mailings in January, 2008.

Q. *How many OBS practices does The Joint Commission currently accredit in NY State?*

A. The Joint Commission currently accredits 76 OBS practices in NY State, and 350 across the country.

Q. *What is the total cost of accreditation for a typical one-office OBS practice?*

A. Accreditation cost for single-site OBS practices is \$6,950. This amount is billed over the 3 year accreditation period.

Q. *What is the eligibility criteria for Joint Commission's OBS accreditation?*

A. Currently, OBS eligibility requires:

- Practice comprised of 4 physicians or fewer.
Note: OBS eligibility may be modified in near future to accommodate larger practices.
- Practice must be surgeon owned or operated.
- Invasive procedures are performed.
- Anesthesia (local / minimal / conscious sedation / general) must be used.

Q. *How long will the accreditation survey take for a typical one-office OBS practice?*

A. Length of survey for a typical single-site OBS practice is 1 day.

Q. *How long does the entire OBS accreditation process take?*

A. Once you submit your application, it can take as little as 6 weeks or as long as 6 months, depending on your preferred survey date. To get the survey date that works best for you, we recommend planning to submit your application several months ahead.

Q. *What is the best way to find out more about Joint Commission OBS accreditation?*

A. We have a variety of helpful materials and people to help you through this process:

- Visit our website with a variety of resources at www.jointcommission.org/OBS
- Email us at: OBS@jointcommission.org
- Call us at (630) 792-5286

