

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.

Q. *How soon do OBS practices in NY State need to be accredited?*

A. **No later than July 14, 2009.** The New York Department of Health expects the practice to have their certificate on the wall by this date. They note it will not be acceptable for the practice to claim an application has been submitted or that it has undergone a survey but is waiting for the outcome after the July 14, 2009 deadline.



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 \$5,650. 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 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. *How soon should OBS practices request information and submit their application for OBS accreditation?*

A. All practices in NY State are encouraged to request information and submit their application ASAP – **by Dec. 2008 at the latest** – to avoid an expected surge in demand in the 6 months prior to the deadline.

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/NYOBS
- Email us at: OBS@jointcommission.org
- Call us directly at (630) 792-5286 (ask for Mike Dye or Darrell Anderson).

