**Accepted:** Changes to Requirements for Deemed Status ASCs

On May 16, 2012, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the final rule “Regulatory Provisions to Promote Program Efficiency, Transparency, and Burden Reduction” (see July 2012 Perspectives, page 6). This rule, which represents part of recent efforts by CMS to remove unnecessary, obsolete, or excessively burdensome requirements, includes changes to Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs).

To align its standards with these revisions, The Joint Commission made several changes affecting the ambulatory care program. The revisions, which became **effective July 16, 2012**, include the deletion of an element of performance (EP) that required ASCs to have a detailed list of specific types of emergency equipment available in each operating room. In its place, The Joint Commission added four EPs that require an ASC to have emergency equipment that is appropriate for its patient population as well as the types of procedures performed there.

The revisions have been published in the recently mailed 2012 Update 2 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care and will appear in the E-dition® this fall. For more information, contact Joyce Webb, RN, BSN, MBA, CMPE, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at jwebb@jointcommission.org or 630-792-5277.

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**Official Publication of Joint Commission Requirements**

**Revisions for Ambulatory Surgical Centers**

**Applicable to Ambulatory Care**

**Effective July 16, 2012**

**Environment of Care (EC)**

**Standard EC.02.04.03**
The organization inspects, tests, and maintains medical equipment.

**Element of Performance for EC.02.04.03**

C.18. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option:

Emergency equipment is maintained by qualified staff.

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<th>Leadership (LD)</th>
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<td><strong>Standard LD.04.01.11</strong></td>
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The organization makes space and equipment available as needed for the provision of care, treatment, or services.

**Element of Performance for LD.04.01.11**

A.8. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option:

The ambulatory surgical center has a policy that specifies the types of emergency equipment required for use in operating rooms. *(See also PC.02.01.09, EP 10)*

**Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC)**

**Standard PC.02.01.09**
The organization plans for and responds to life-threatening emergencies.

**Elements of Performance for PC.02.01.09**

C.9. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option:

Emergency equipment is immediately available for use when needed to respond to emergencies.

C.10. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option:

The types of emergency equipment available are appropriate for the organization’s patient population and types of procedures performed. *(See also LD.04.01.11, EP 8)*

**Standard PC.03.01.03**
The organization provides the patient with care before initiating operative or other high-risk procedures, including those that require the administration of moderate or deep sedation or anesthesia.

**Element of Performance for PC.03.01.03**

A.11. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option:

Emergency provisions available to operating rooms include the following:

- An emergency call system
- Oxygen
- Manual breathing bags
- Ventilators
- Mechanical ventilation assistance equipment, including airways
- Cardiac defibrillator
- Cardiac monitoring equipment
- A tracheotomy set
- Laryngoscopes and endotracheal tubes
- Suction equipment
- Emergency medical equipment and supplies specified by the ambulatory surgical center’s physicians.