Standards Changes for Deemed Status
Ambulatory Surgical Centers

On May 12, 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published changes to its Conditions for Coverage (CfCs) for ambulatory surgical centers. The revisions are part of CMS’s recent efforts to remove requirements determined to be unnecessary, obsolete, or excessively burdensome.

As a result of these revisions, ambulatory surgical centers are no longer required to comply with the entire set of hospital requirements for radiologic services found at 42 CFR 482.26. The regulatory changes now specify that ambulatory surgical centers must provide only those radiologic services that are integral to the surgical procedures offered. In addition, the CMS regulations now allow nonradiologists (qualified by education and experience in accordance with state law and the ambulatory surgical center’s policy) to supervise the provision of these radiologic services.

In response to these regulatory changes, The Joint Commission has added one new element of performance (EP), deleted two EPs, and revised three EPs. The revised EPs, which became effective July 22, 2014, are shown in the box below (new text is underlined and deleted text is shown in strikethrough) and are available on The Joint Commission’s website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx. These revisions appear in E-dition and will be published in print in October in the 2014 Update 2 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care.

For more information, please contact Joyce Webb, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, at jwebb@jointcommission.org or 630-792-5277.

---

**Official Publication of Joint Commission Requirements**

**Revisions to Align with CMS Conditions for Coverage**

**Effective July 22, 2014**

**Environment of Care (EC)**

**Standard EC .02.02.01**
The organization manages risks related to hazardous materials and waste.

**Elements of Performance for EC.02.02.01**

**C 14.** For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The ambulatory surgical center checks radiology staff, according to time frames it defines, for radiation exposure, using exposure meters or badge tests. The dates of the checks and amount of exposure are documented.

**Note:** For more information on 42 CFR 482.26, refer to “Appendix A: §482.26 Condition of Participation: Radiologic Services.”

**A 15.** For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The radiologic services, including ionizing radiology procedures, are free from hazards for patients and staff.

---

**Human Resources (HR)**

**Standard HR.02.01.03**
The organization grants initial, renewed, or revised clinical privileges to individuals who are permitted by law and the organization to practice independently.

**Elements of Performance for HR.02.01.03**

**A 37.** For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: A full-time, part-time, or consulting radiologist who is a doctor of medicine or osteopathy qualified by education and experience in radiology supervises ionizing radiology services.

**Note:** For more information on 42 CFR 482.26, refer to “Appendix A: §482.26 Condition of Participation: Radiologic Services.”

**C 38.** For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The radiologist who supervises ionizing radiology services interprets only those tests that are determined by the medical staff members to require a radiologist’s specialized knowledge.

---

*Continued on page 12*
Revisions to Align with CMS Conditions for Coverage (continued)

Leadership (LD)

**Standard LD.04.01.05**
The organization effectively manages its programs, services, or sites.

**Element of Performance for LD.04.01.05**
A 13. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: If radiologic services are provided by the ambulatory surgical center, the governing body must appoint an individual qualified in accordance with state law and organizational policies who is responsible for making certain that all radiologic services are provided in accordance with law and regulation.

Note: For more information on 42 CFR 482.26, refer to “Appendix A: $482.26 Condition of Participation: Radiologic Services.”

Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services (PC)

**Standard PC.02.02.01**
The organization coordinates the patient’s care, treatment, or services based on the patient’s needs.

**Element of Performance for PC.02.02.01**
A 15. For ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission deemed status option: The ambulatory surgical center has procedures for obtaining radiological services from a Medicare-approved facility in order to meet the patient’s needs. Radiologic services may only be provided when they are integral to procedures offered by the ambulatory surgical center.

Note: The Joint Commission elements of performance that relate to laws and regulations for radiologic services are outlined in the ambulatory surgical center crosswalk on E-dition.