In February 2014, The Joint Commission reapplied to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for deeming authority for ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs). In response to CMS’s spring 2014 review of its application, The Joint Commission developed and revised several elements of performance (EPs) for ambulatory surgical centers that elect to use The Joint Commission’s deemed status option. The revisions, which became effective in August 2014, are designed to demonstrate equivalency to the current Medicare Conditions for Coverage (CfCs).

The new and revised requirements are currently available on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx and were published in an August 2014 E-dition* update with an updated ASC crosswalk. The revisions will appear in print in the 2014 Update 2 to the Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care scheduled for publication in late October.

Any additional changes that may result from further CMS review will be communicated in future issues of Perspectives® and Joint Commission Online. For more information, please contact Joyce Webb, project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, The Joint Commission, at jwebb@jointcommission.org.