



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
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CIRCULAR LETTER: DHCQ 10-03-530

TO: Chief Executive Officers
Ambulatory Surgical Centers

FROM: Alice Bonner, PhD., RN
Director, Bureau of Healthcare Safety and Quality

DATE: March 1, 2010

RE: Follow-up to Circular Letter Announcing ASC Reporting Requirements

On January 25, 2010, the Department issued circular letter DHCQ 10-01-527 (the letter is attached) announcing the data collection and reporting requirements for free standing Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC) pursuant to 105 CMR 140.309. The data collection and reporting requirements pertain to both healthcare associated infections (HAI) and influenza vaccination of ASC personnel.

The letter requests basic information about your facility:

1. Name of facility
2. Address
3. Name of person responsible for infection prevention and control
4. Email for the person
5. Phone number of the person
6. Whether or not your facility performs herniorrhaphies
7. If your facility performs herniorrhaphies, please provide the total number performed in 2009 using the ICD-9 codes referenced in Attachment 3 of the original circular letter.

The Department needs this information from all ASCs in order to maintain accurate records as the HAI and the personnel influenza vaccination projects move forward. Attachment 4 contains a form for your convenience that can be used for submission.

The original circular letter set a deadline of February 8, 2010 for submitting the information. As of February 24, 2010, the Department has not received any correspondence from your facility. A circular letter is the Department's way of communicating regulations and the actions healthcare facilities are expected to take. Please comply with this request no later than **March 12, 2010**.

Information can be emailed to Roberta Bernstein at roberta.bernstein@state.ma.us or faxed to 617-753-8125. If you have any questions, Roberta can be reached at the email address or at 617-753-8062.

Thank you for your cooperation.