



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Office of Health Care Quality

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Update on the Implementation of COMAR 10.12.01

Surgical Abortion Facilities

February 13, 2013

In June 2012, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene published rules that for the first time made Maryland surgical abortion facilities subject to licensure and regulation. Since the rules became effective on July 23, 2012, DHMH's Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) has made progress toward full implementation.

OHCQ's efforts include:

- Developing protocols and procedures for conducting surveys and addressing complaints.
- Developing and conducting internal training programs for surveyors, including a review of all directly applicable and related regulations and professional standards of care.
- Developing a full-day training program for the staff of surgical abortion facilities and offering the program twice in October 2012.
- Establishing contact with, obtaining an application from, and approving initial licensure of 17 surgical abortion facilities.
- Identifying other Maryland facilities potentially subject to the rules that have not applied for initial licensure and initiating steps to assure that there are no surgical abortion facilities operating outside of regulatory oversight.

In approximately the next eight weeks, OHCQ will complete inspections at all surgical abortion facilities that have applied for or obtained an initial license, and it will continue to evaluate and investigate complaints.

Surgical abortion facilities that fail to seek licensure or that fail to meet acceptable standards will not be permitted to operate in Maryland.

