

DATE: October 9, 2014

TO: Ambulatory Surgical Centers

FROM: Barbara Fagan  
Program Manager  
Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ)

RE: Life Safety Code inspections in Ambulatory Surgical Centers

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Over the past year, we have noted that many ASC providers have not been responsive to the Statement of Deficiencies (SoD) for cited Life Safety Code violations issued by OHCQ within the required time frame. A certified Medicare provider must submit a plan of correction, to OHCQ, within ten calendar days of receipt of the SoD. Providers failing to submit an acceptable plan of correction within this time frame may be subject to termination of participation in the Medicare program.

Medicare requirements concerning Life Safety Code inspections in an Ambulatory Surgical Center are located in the Medicare State Operation Manual, Chapter 2, The Certification Process, section 2728 - Statement of Deficiencies and Plan of Correction. Also, according to section 2728B, if the plan of correction is not received, the State Agency (OHCQ) can take action to terminate the Medicare Provider Agreement.

The following items are required for all Life Safety Code inspections and documentation of completion should be provided to the Fire Marshals when they conduct the Life Safety Code inspection:

Fire alarm system - Done annually – NFPA 72

Sprinkler (water based fire suppression) system - Done quarterly, annually and five years – NFPA 13 and 25

Generator – Weekly inspections and monthly load tests – NFPA 99 and 110

Piped gas system - Done annually – NFPA 99

Fire drill reports for the last two years

If you have any questions regarding the guidance in this transmittal, please contact Leon Carlton at [leon.carlton@maryland.gov](mailto:leon.carlton@maryland.gov)