



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality
Bland Bryant Building • Spring Grove Center
55 Wade Avenue • Catonsville, Maryland 21228

To: Ambulatory Surgical Centers
From: Carol Benner Director, Office of Health Care Quality
RE: **Required Emergency Equipment**
DATE: JAN/2000

We have recently received several letters concerning regulatory requirements for emergency equipment in Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC). Currently, Medicare Conditions of Participation (42 CFR 416.44) require a ventilator. State licensure regulations also require a ventilator. The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) has interpreted this to mean that an ASC that only provides local anesthesia would meet the requirement with a positive pressure oxygen regulator. Any ASC that provides general anesthesia must have an appropriately maintained and operating ventilator.

We have contacted the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), and asked HCFA if this interpretation is consistent with federal policy. However, until we receive a determination from HCFA, OHCQ will continue to interpret the regulation as it has.

If you have any questions, please call Michael Wajda, Assistant Director, OHCQ Laboratory and Ambulatory Care Programs at 410-402-8040.

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