

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Administrator

Tracey D. Green, M.D.
State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

THE NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION RECEIVES FUNDING FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

Funding will be used to survey ambulatory surgical centers

Carson City-The Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance will receive \$46,232 from the ARRA. This will supplement the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) original \$76,743 allotted in the FFY10 budget for ambulatory center surgery inspections bringing the total to \$ 109,991. The additional ARRA funding will support the inspection of 13 ambulatory surgical centers, with a new CMS survey process that uses an infection control tool developed in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"This will assist our ongoing inspection process for all ambulatory surgical centers," said Richard Whitley, Health Division Administrator. "Our goal is to ensure that every ambulatory surgical center has excellent infection control procedures in place and are following those procedures in order to eliminate healthcare-associated infections."

The need to improve oversight of ASCs arises from many factors. ASCs have been the fastest growing type of institutional provider/supplier participating in Medicare, increasing in number by more than 38 percent between 2002 and 2007. ASCs currently account for 43 percent of all same-day surgery in the United States. When ASCs are inspected, deficiencies are often cited. In fiscal year 2008, for example, 15 percent of all ASCs inspected for CMS were found to have serious deficient practices.

The new CMS ASC survey process greatly improves the surveyors' ability to recognize deficient practices in infection control. When the new survey tool was piloted, among the common deficient practices identified were the use of single-dose vials of medication for multiple patients, improper sterilization practices, general disinfection and sanitation problems and failure to have any system for reporting notifiable diseases to their respective state health agency.

For more information about the Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, visit the website at: <http://health.nv.gov/HCQC.htm>.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "May E. Whitley".

for RW

Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300 Carson City, Nevada 89706