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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION NEWS RELEASE

UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS A DON'T-MISS OPPORTUNITY to WEIGH IN on the NEVADA HEALTH DIVISION'S DEVELOPMENT of PHYSICIAN/ASC REGULATIONS

Carson City – Two “don’t miss” opportunities for physicians, ambulatory surgical center administrators and other stakeholders to weigh in on regulations now being drafted by the Health Division to implement the requirements of Assembly Bill 123 of the 2009 legislative session are on tap for next week.

The first is set for Carson City on Monday, Aug. 10 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Health Division offices at 4150 Technology Way, Room 303. The second will be held in Las Vegas on Tuesday, Aug. 11 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the training room of the U.S. Veterans Affairs Delta Point Building, 901 Rancho Lane. An outline of the proposed regulations will be available for review and comment. The meetings will be an early opportunity for stakeholders to provide direction on what the final regulations should look like.

Assembly Bill 123 established a number of new requirements for healthcare providers, including a first-time permit requirement for physicians who use certain types of sedation in the medical procedures they perform in their offices. Starting Oct. 1, 2010, these physicians will have to obtain permits and be inspected by the Health Division’s Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance. They will also have to obtain accreditation from one of the designated national professional organizations that evaluates and certifies such office-based surgical practices.

Ambulatory Surgical Centers, where outpatient surgery procedures are performed, also face a mandatory accreditation requirement starting March 31, 2010. These facilities are already licensed and regulated by the Bureau.

The bill as signed into law by the Governor can be found here: [Assembly Bill 123](http://leg.state.nv.us/75th2009/Bills/AB/AB123_EN.pdf).
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NEVADA STATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The legislation and accompanying regulations are aimed at protecting the public from healthcare-associated infections, such as the hepatitis C outbreak that was identified last year in Southern Nevada.

Following the stakeholder meetings, the Health Division will move forward with more formal workshops on the draft regulations in preparation for hearings before the Nevada State Board of Health later this year. The regulations must also be reviewed and approved by the Legislative Commission. The regulations regarding ASC accreditation are to take effect by Oct. 1, 2009. The regulations affecting physicians are required to be in place by Jan. 1, 2010.

Don't miss this opportunity to have a say in the crafting of these important regulations.

"These are great opportunities for healthcare providers and facilities affected by the provisions of AB123 to give early input on the crafting of these important regulations," said Paul Shubert, a health facilities surveyor with the Bureau. "We encourage all stakeholders to attend."

The Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance protects the safety and welfare of the public through the promotion and advocacy of quality health care through licensing, regulation, enforcement and education. This mission is accomplished through the Bureau's two sections: Licensure and Certification, which regulates facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and laboratories; and Radiological Health, which evaluates and responds to hazards from sources of ionizing radiation such as X-ray machines, sources of radiation to treat cancer and mammography units.

For health facilities, more than 900 surveys are conducted each year of Nevada's licensees. More information about the Bureau may be found at: <http://health.nv.gov/>

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