



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C-16-23-AO/ASCs

DATE: May 06, 2016
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director, Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: Approval of The Institute for Medical Quality's (IMQ's) Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Accreditation Program

Memorandum Summary

- **Announcement:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announces its decision to recognize and approve IMQ's accreditation program for ASCs seeking to participate in the Medicare program via deemed status.

Background

Section 1865(a) of the Social Security Act (the Act) permits providers and suppliers accredited by an approved Medicare accreditation program of a national accrediting body to be "deemed" to meet the applicable Medicare Conditions for that provider or supplier type. To receive approval, a national accrediting organization (AO) must demonstrate to CMS that its Medicare accreditation program requirements meet or exceed the applicable Medicare Conditions.

IMQs Approval

CMS reviewed IMQ's application for approval of its ASC Medicare accreditation program in accordance with the requirements at 42 CFR 488. CMS' review included IMQ's survey and accrediting processes, as well as its health and safety standards. CMS found IMQ's Medicare accreditation program for ASCs to meet or exceed the Medicare ASC Conditions for Coverage at 42 CFR 416.

CMS announced its approval of IMQ's application as an approved Medicare accreditation program for ASCs in the April 29, 2016, *Federal Register*. This notice can be accessed at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-04-29/pdf/2016-10165.pdf>. This is an initial four-year approval effective April 29, 2016. Please note that approval of this Medicare accreditation program is limited to its use in assuring compliance with the Medicare ASC Conditions for Coverage and does not apply to ownership, enrollment, or other Medicare requirements.

This approval provides ASCs with another Medicare accreditation option in addition to those available through the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, Inc., the American Osteopathic Association/Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program, and The Joint Commission.

We are working to make IMQ available in the Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN) for selection under the deemed status tab in the near future.

Contact: If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Ms. Lillian Williams at 410-786-8636 or via E-Mail at lillian.williams@cms.hhs.gov .

Effective Date: Immediately. This information should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management