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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2005-6

DATE: August 15, 2005

TO: ALL MEDICARE CERTIFIED AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: **DEEMED STATUS FOR AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTERS**

This letter is sent as a reminder of the requirements for deemed status for Ambulatory Surgical Centers. On September 3, 1998, Informational Letter #98-10, related to accreditation by Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and deemed status requirements, was sent to all Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs). In January, 1999, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services notified the State agency that it also recognized Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF) as meeting or exceeding the Medicare conditions of coverage for Ambulatory Surgical Centers.

It has come to our attention that many ASCs in Idaho are now accredited by one of the above accreditation organizations. This is a reminder that there is a specific "deemed status" survey process that must be completed by the accreditation organization in order for the ASC to qualify for deemed status. If an ASC desires deemed status, this survey process must be requested from the accreditation organization. If an ASC has not been surveyed by an accreditation organization using the deemed status survey process, it will not qualify for deemed status, but will continue to participate in the Medicare program under the routine survey and certification process applicable to all unaccredited or non-deemed ASCs.

If your Ambulatory Surgical Center is accredited via the deemed status survey process, and you are interested in applying for deemed status, please send us a copy of the accreditation letter you received from the accreditation agency, along with a letter requesting deemed status and the date of your initial accreditation. If you have not applied for and received deemed status, your surgical center will remain on the Medicare survey rotation schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Creswell, BSW, Supervisor, Non Long Term Care or Penny Salow, R.N. at (208) 334-6626.

[*original signed by Debby Ransom & on file at the Bureau of Facility Standards*]
DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief
Bureau of Facility Standards

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