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TITLE 216 – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CHAPTER 40 – PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AND FACILITY REGULATION

SUBCHAPTER 10 – FACILITIES REGULATION

PART 5 – Licensing of Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Centers

5.1 Authority

These regulations are promulgated pursuant to the authority conferred under R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-17-10 and are established for the purpose of adopting minimal standards for licensed freestanding ambulatory surgical centers in this state.

5.2 Definitions

- A. Wherever used in these rules and regulations the following terms shall be construed as follows:
1. "Change of operator" means a transfer by the governing body or operator of a licensed freestanding ambulatory surgical center ("FASC") to any other person (excluding delegations of authority to the medical or administrative staff of the facility) of the governing body's authority to:
 - a. Hire or fire the chief executive officer of the FASC;
 - b. Maintain and control the books and records of the FASC;
 - c. Dispose of assets and incur liabilities on behalf of the FASC;
 - d. Adopt and enforce policies regarding operation of the FASC.
 - e. This definition is not applicable to circumstances wherein the governing body of a FASC retains the immediate authority and jurisdiction over the activities enumerated in §§ 5.2(A)(1)(a) through (d) of this Part.
 2. "Change in owner" means:
 - a. In the case of a FASC which is a partnership, the removal, addition or substitution of a partner which results in a new partner acquiring a controlling interest in such partnership.

- b. In the case of a FASC which is a corporation:
 - (1) A sale, lease, exchange or other disposition of all, or substantially all of the property and assets of the corporation; or
 - (2) A merger of the corporation into another corporation; or
 - (3) The consolidation of two or more corporations, resulting in the creation of a new corporation; or
 - (4) In the case of a FASC which is a business corporation, any transfer of corporate stock which results in a new person acquiring a controlling interest in such corporation; or
 - (5) In the case of a FASC which is a non-business corporation, and change in membership which results in a new person acquiring a controlling vote in such corporation.
- 3. "Director" means the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health.
- 4. "Equity" means non-debt funds contributed towards the capital costs related to a change in owner or change in operator of a freestanding ambulatory surgical center which funds are free and clear of any repayment or liens against the assets of the proposed owner and/or licensee and that result in a like reduction in the portion of the capital cost that is required to be financed or mortgaged.
- 5. "Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center," also referred to as the "FASC", means an establishment or place which may be a public or private organization equipped and operated exclusively for ambulatory patients for the purpose of performing surgical procedures which have the approval of the governing body and which in the opinion of the surgeon and anesthesiologist can be performed safely without requiring extensive anesthesia or overnight stay.
- 6. "Health Services Council" means the advisory body to the Rhode Island State Department of Health established in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-16, appointed and empowered in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17, to serve as the advisory body to the state agency in its review functions.
- 7. The "licensed capacity," of the FASC, means the number of operating rooms and recovery beds that the facility is licensed to operate.

8. "Licensing agency" or "state agency" means the Rhode Island Department of Health.
9. "Person" means any individual, trust or estate, partnership, corporation (including associations, joint stock companies), limited liability company, state, or political subdivisions or instrumentality of a state.
10. "R.I. Gen. Laws" means the General Laws of Rhode Island.

5.3 Licensing Procedures and Definitions

5.3.1 General Requirements for Licensure

- A. No person acting severally or jointly with any other person, shall establish, conduct or maintain a FASC in this state without a license in accordance with the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-17-4.
- B. A certificate of need is required as a precondition to the establishment of a new FASC and such other activities in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-15.

5.3.2 Application for License or for Changes in Owner, Operator, or Lessee

- A. Application for License and Renewal.
 1. Application for an initial license to conduct, maintain or operate a FASC shall be made to the licensing agency upon forms provided by it and shall contain such information as the licensing agency reasonably requires which may include affirmative evidence of ability to comply with the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17 and this Part.
 2. Licenses will expire at the end of the calendar year unless renewed (prior to the expiration date of licensure).
 - a. Renewal applications must be submitted one month prior to the expiration date.
- B. A notarized listing of names and addresses of direct and indirect owners whether individual, partnership or corporation with percentages of ownership designated shall be provided with the application for licensure and shall be updated annually. The list shall include each owner (in whole or in part) of any mortgage, deed or trust, note or other obligation.
- C. Application for changes in the owner, operator, or lessee of a FASC shall be made on forms provided by the licensing agency and shall contain but not be

limited to information pertinent to the statutory purpose expressed in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-17-3 or to the considerations enumerated in § 5.3.3(D)(5) of this Part. Three (3) paper copies and an electronic copy of such applications are required to be provided.

1. Each application filed pursuant the provisions of this section shall be accompanied by a non-refundable, non-returnable application fee, as set forth in the Fee Structure for Licensing, Laboratory, and Administrative Services Provided by the Department of Health (Part 10-05-2 of this Title).

5.3.3 Issuance and Renewal of License

- A. Upon receipt of an application for a license, the licensing agency shall issue a license or renewal thereof for a period of no more than one (1) year if the applicant meets the requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17 and this Part. Said license, unless sooner suspended or revoked, shall expire by limitation on the 31st day of December following its issuance and may be renewed from year to year after inspection and approval by the licensing agency.
- B. A license shall be issued to a specific licensee for a specific location and shall not be transferable except with the written approval of the licensing agency. The license shall be issued only for the premises and the individual owner, operator or lessee, or to the corporate entity responsible for its governance.
 1. Any change in owner, operator, or lessee of a licensed FASC shall require prior review by the Health Services Council and approval of the licensing agency as provided in § 5.3.3(D) of this Part as a condition precedent to the transfer, assignment or issuance of a new license.
- C. A license issued hereunder shall be the property of the state loaned to such licensee and it shall be kept posted in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises.
- D. Reviews of applications for changes in the owner, operator, or lessee of licensed FASC shall be conducted according to the following procedures:
 1. Within ten (10) working days of receipt, in acceptable form, of an application for a license in connection with a change in the owner, operator or lessee of an existing FASC, the licensing agency will notify and afford the public thirty (30) days to comment on such application.
 2. The decision of the licensing agency will be rendered within ninety (90) days from acceptance of the application.

3. The decision of the licensing agency shall be based upon the findings and recommendations of the Health Services Council unless the licensing agency shall afford written justification for variance therefrom.
4. All applications reviewed by the licensing agency and all written materials pertinent to licensing agency review, including minutes of all Health Services Council meetings, shall be accessible to the public upon request.
5. Except as otherwise provided in R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17, a review of the Health Services Council of an application for a license in the case of a proposed change in the owner, operator, or lessee of a licensed FASC may not be made subject to any criterion unless the criterion directly relates to the statutory purpose expressed in R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17-3. In conducting reviews of such applications the Health Services Council shall specifically consider and it shall be the applicant's burden of proof to demonstrate:
6. The character, commitment, competence and standing in the community of the proposed owners, operators, or directors of the FASC as evidenced by:
 - a. In cases where the proposed owners, operators, or directors of the health care facility currently own, operate, or direct a health care facility, or in the past five years owned, operated or directed a health care facility, whether within or outside Rhode Island, the demonstrated commitment and record of that (those) person(s):
 - (1) In providing safe and adequate treatment to the individuals receiving the health care facility's services;
 - (2) In encouraging, promoting and effecting quality improvement in all aspects of health care facility services; and
 - (3) In providing appropriate access to health care facility services;
 - b. A complete disclosure of all individuals and entities comprising the applicant; and
 - c. The applicant's proposed and demonstrated financial commitment to the health care facility;
7. The extent to which the facility will continue, without material effect on its viability at the time of change of owner, operator, or lessee, to provide

safe and adequate treatment for individuals receiving the facility's services as evidenced by:

- a. The immediate and long term financial feasibility of the proposed financing plan;
 - (1) The proposed amount and sources of owner's equity to be provided by the applicant;
 - (2) The proposed financial plan for operating and capital expenses and income for the period immediately prior to, during and after the implementation of the change in owner, operator or lessee of the health care facility;
 - (3) The relative availability of funds for capital and operating needs;
 - (4) The applicant's demonstrated financial capability;
 - (5) Such other financial indicators as may be requested by the state agency;
8. The extent to which the facility will continue to provide safe and adequate treatment for individuals receiving the facility's services and the extent to which the facility will encourage quality improvement in all aspects of the operation of the health care facility as evidenced by:
 - a. The applicant's demonstrated record in providing safe and adequate treatment to individuals receiving services at facilities owned, operated, or directed by the applicant; and
 - b. The credibility and demonstrated or potential effectiveness of the applicant's proposed quality assurance programs;
9. The extent to which the facility will provide or will continue to provide appropriate access with respect to traditionally underserved populations as evidenced by:
 - a. In cases where the proposed owners, operators, or directors of the health care facility currently own, operate, or direct a health care facility, or in the past five years owned, operated or directed a health care facility, both within and outside of Rhode Island, the demonstrated record of that person(s) with respect to access of traditionally underserved populations to its health care facilities; and

- b. The proposed immediate and long term plans of the applicant to ensure adequate and appropriate access to the programs and health care services to be provided by the health care facility;
 - 10. In consideration of the proposed continuation or termination of health care services by the facility:
 - a. The effect(s) of such continuation or termination on access to safe and adequate treatment of individuals, including but not limited to traditionally underserved populations.
 - 11. And, in cases where the application involves a merger, consolidation or otherwise legal affiliation of two or more health care facilities, the proposed immediate and long-term plans of such health care facilities with respect to the health care programs to be offered and health care services to be provided by such health care facilities as a result of the merger, consolidation or otherwise legal affiliation.
- E. Subsequent to reviews conducted under §§ 5.3.3(D) and (D)(6) of this Part, the issuance of a license by the licensing agency may be made subject to any condition, provided that no condition may be made unless it directly relates to the statutory purpose expressed in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-17-3, or to the review criteria set forth in § 5.3.3(D)(6) of this Part. This shall not limit the authority of the licensing agency to require correction of conditions or defects which existed prior to the proposed change of owner, operator, or lessee and of which notice had been given to the facility by the licensing agency.

5.3.4 Capacity

- A. The license for a FASC shall be issued for a specified number of operating rooms and recovery beds. The numerical capacity of the FASC shall be determined by the number of recovery beds provided.
- B. The post-surgical occupancy of a facility shall not exceed the determined capacity for which a FASC is licensed.

5.3.5 Inspections

- A. The licensing agency shall make or cause to be made such inspections and investigations as it deems necessary and in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-17-10 and this Part.
- B. Every FASC shall be given prompt notice by the licensing agency of any deficiencies reported as a result of an inspection or investigation.

- C. Written reports and recommendations of inspections shall be maintained on file in each FASC for a period of no less than three (3) years.

5.3.6 Denial, Suspension, Revocation of License or Curtailment of Activities

- A. The licensing agency is authorized to deny, suspend or revoke the license or curtail activities of any FASC which:
 - 1. has failed to comply with the rules and regulations pertaining to the licensing of FASC; and
 - 2. has failed to comply with the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17.
 - 3. Lists of deficiencies noted in inspections conducted in accordance with § 5.3.5 of this Part shall be maintained on file in the licensing agency, and shall be considered by the licensing agency in rendering determinations to deny, suspend or revoke the license or to curtail activities of a FASC.
- B. Where the licensing agency deems that operation of a FASC results in undue hardship to patients as a result of deficiencies, the licensing agency is authorized to deny licensure to a FASC not previously licensed, or to suspend for a stipulated period of time or revoke the license of a FASC already licensed or curtail activities of the FASC.
- C. Whenever an action shall be proposed to deny, suspend or revoke a FASC license, or curtail its activities, the licensing agency shall notify the FASC by certified mail, setting forth reasons for the proposed action, and the applicant or licensee shall be given an opportunity for a prompt and fair hearing in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-17-8 and 42-35.9.
 - 1. However, if the licensing agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, the licensing agency may order summary suspension of license or curtailment of activities pending proceedings for revocation or other action in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-1-21, and 42-35-14(c).
- D. The appropriate state and federal placement and reimbursement agencies shall be notified of any action taken by the licensing agency pertaining to either denial, suspension or revocation of license, or curtailment of activities.

5.4 Organization and Management

5.4.1 Governing Body and Management

- A. Each facility shall have an organized governing body or other legal authority, responsible for:
 - 1. The management and control of the operation;
 - 2. The assurance of the quality of care and services;
 - 3. The conformity of the facility with all federal, state and local laws and regulations relating to fire, safety, sanitation, infection control; and
 - 4. Other relevant health and safety requirements and with all the rules and regulations of this Part.
- B. The governing body or other legal authority shall provide appropriate personnel, physical resources, and equipment based on the scope of services provided.
- C. The governing body or other legal authority shall designate:
 - 1. An administrator who shall be responsible for the management and operation of the facility; and
 - 2. A medical director to ensure achievement and maintenance of quality standards of professional practice.
- D. The governing body shall adopt and maintain by-laws defining responsibilities for the operation and performance of the organization, identifying purposes and means of fulfilling such, and in addition the by-laws shall include but not be limited to:
 - 1. A statement of qualifications and responsibilities of the medical director and administrator;
 - 2. A statement of the governing body's responsibility for the quality of care and services;
 - 3. A statement relating to development and implementation of long and short range plans;
 - 4. A statement of policy establishing the criteria for the selection and admission of patients;
 - 5. A statement relating to conflict of interest on the part of the governing body, medical staff and employees;
 - 6. A policy statement concerning the publication of an annual report, including a certified financial statement; and

7. Such other matters as may be relevant to the organization of the FASC.
- E. When a majority of the members of the governing body are physicians, the governing body, either directly or by delegation, shall make initial appointments, and assignment or curtailment of surgical privileges, based on the education, training, experience and evidence of competence of the physician, dentist or podiatrist consistent with state law; or when a majority of the members of the governing body are not physicians the organization's by-laws or similar rules and regulations shall specify a procedure for establishing medical review for the purpose of making initial appointments, reappointments, and assignment or curtailment of medical privileges, based on the education, training, experience and evidence of current competence of the physician, dentist or podiatrist, and consistent with state law.
 - F. A health care facility shall require all persons, including students, who examine, observe, or treat a patient or resident of such facility to wear a photo identification badge which states, in a reasonably legible manner, the first name, licensure/registration status, if any, and staff position of such person.

5.4.2 Administrator

- A. The governing body shall appoint a qualified administrator who may be the medical director, who shall be responsible for:
 1. The management and operation of the FASC;
 2. The enforcement of policies, rules and regulations and statutory provisions pertaining to the health and safety of patients;
 3. Serving as liaison between the governing body and the staff; and
 4. The planning, organizing and directing of such other activities as may be delegated by the governing body.

5.4.3 Medical Director

- A. The surgical services of the FASC shall be under the direction of a physician licensed in Rhode Island, who meets the qualifications set forth by the governing body in accordance with § 5.4.1 of this Part, and who shall be responsible for no less than the following.
 1. The coordination, supervision and functioning of services;
 2. The establishment of provisions for infection control;

3. The achievement and maintenance of quality assurance of professional practices through a mechanism of peer review; and
4. The establishment of policies and procedures for surgical and anesthesia services and other related health care services.

B. Personnel Health Requirements

1. Upon hire and prior to delivering services, a pre-employment health screening shall be required for each individual who has or may have direct contact with a patient in the freestanding ambulatory surgical center. Such health screening shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations pertaining to Immunization, Testing, and Health Screening for Health Care Workers (Part 20-15-17 of this Title) promulgated by the Department of Health.

5.4.4 Rights of Patients

- A. Each FASC shall observe the standards enumerated in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-17-19.1 with respect to each patient admitted on its facility.
- B. Each facility shall display in a conspicuous place in the licensed FASC a copy of the "Rights of Patients."

5.4.5 Disaster Preparedness

- A. Each FASC shall develop and maintain a written disaster preparedness plan which shall include specific provisions and procedures for the emergency care of patients in the event of fire, natural disaster or functional failure of equipment.
 1. Such a plan shall be developed and coordinated with appropriate state and local agencies and representatives concerned with emergency safety and rescue;
 2. A copy of the plan shall be submitted to the licensing agency;
 3. Simulated drills testing the effectiveness of the plan shall be conducted at least semi-annually. Written reports and evaluation of all drills shall be maintained by the FASC and available for review by the licensing agency;
- B. Emergency steps of action shall be clearly outlined and posted in conspicuous locations throughout the facility.

5.4.6 Administrative Records

- A. Each FASC shall maintain such administrative records as may be deemed necessary for the business operation of the facility, in addition to the following;
 - 1. Monthly statistical summary of numbers of surgical procedures performed, appropriately classified;
 - 2. Narcotic register;
 - 3. An operating room log book maintained in chronological sequence of admissions which shall include pertinent information such as patient's name, name of surgeon and anesthesiologist, circulating nurse, surgical procedures performed, type of anesthesia and complications (if any); and
 - 4. A record of all transfers to a hospital for post-surgical care.

5.4.7 Uniform Reporting System

- A. Each FASC shall establish and maintain records and data in such a manner as to make uniform the system of periodic reporting. The manner in which the requirements of this regulation may be met shall be prescribed from time to time in directives promulgated by the Director with the advice of the Health Services Council.
- B. Each FASC shall report to the licensing agency detailed financial and statistical data pertaining to its operations, services, and facility. Such reports shall be made at such intervals and by such dates as determined by the Director and shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - 1. Utilization of FASC services;
 - 2. Unit cost of services;
 - 3. Charges for services;
 - 4. Financial condition of the FASC; and
 - 5. Quality of care.
- C. The licensing agency is authorized to make the reported data available to any state agency concerned with or exercising jurisdiction over the reimbursement of the FASC.
- D. The directives promulgated by the Director pursuant to these regulations shall be sent to each FASC to which they apply. Such directives shall prescribe the form and manner in which the financial and statistical data required shall be furnished to the licensing agency.

5.5 Patient Care Services

5.5.1 Admission, Transfer and Discharge

- A. Each FASC shall have written admission, transfer and discharge policies and procedures pertaining to at least the following:
1. Types of surgical procedures and conditions acceptable for admission;
 2. Emergency admission;
 3. Requirements for pre-admission history in accordance with § 5.5.5(C) of this Part;
 4. Transfer of patients for continuity of care or emergency care;
 5. Discharge of patient with responsible adult, as indicated;
 6. Constraints imposed by limitations of services, physical facilities; and
 7. Instruction of patients on self-care upon discharge.

5.5.2 Patient Care Management

- A. Each patient shall be under the continuing supervision of a physician and provisions shall be made to assure the availability of a physician through the period of a patient's stay in the FASC.
- B. A mechanism shall be established for the development and periodic review and revision of patient care policies and procedures which shall pertain to no less than:
1. Scope of services provided either directly or per contractual arrangements;
 2. Criteria for admission, transfer and discharge;
 3. Physician services and consultation services;
 4. Radiology and laboratory services; and
 5. Counseling services, if indicated.
- C. The names and telephone number(s) of physicians to be called in an emergency including rescue or ambulance services shall be posted and easily accessible.

- D. No medication shall be given except on the signed order of a lawfully authorized person. Emergency telephone orders shall be signed within twenty-four (24) hours.

5.5.3 Anesthesia Service

- A. A qualified anesthesiologist shall be on the staff.
- B. There shall be written policies and procedures regarding:
 - 1. Privileges of staff for anesthesiology established in accordance with § 5.4.1(E) of this Part;
 - 2. Emergency coverage;
 - 3. Administration of anesthetics;
 - 4. The maintenance of safety controls; and
 - 5. Qualifications and supervision of non-physician anesthetists. In addition, the policies shall include provisions for at least the following:
 - a. Pre-anesthesia evaluation by a physician;
 - b. Safety of the patient during the anesthesia period;
 - c. Review of patient's condition prior to induction of anesthesia and post-anesthetic evaluation; and
 - d. Recording of all events related to each phase of anesthesia care.

5.5.4 Counseling and Referral Service

When irreversible procedures are to be performed, such as human sterilization or termination of pregnancy, or when indicated in other situations, counseling service shall be provided through physicians, qualified nurses, social workers or trained counselors or a list of counseling agencies shall be made available to patients.

5.5.5 Nursing Care Service

- A. Nursing care service shall be under the direction of a full time licensed registered nurse who has training and experience in surgical nursing, and who shall be responsible for the supervision of nursing care needs of patients in preparation for and during the surgical procedure, and during the recovery period until discharged from the FASC by the responsible physician.

- B. The number and type of registered nurses and ancillary personnel shall be based on the scope of services provided and staff capabilities, to ensure direct patient care as needed throughout the period of the patient(s) stay.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the registered nurse to obtain directly from the patient, per telephone if possible, a pre-admission history, distinct from the history obtained by the private physician.

5.5.6 Infection Control

- A. A mechanism shall be established by the Medical Director for the development of infection control policies which shall pertain to no less than:
 - 1. Infection surveillance activities
 - 2. Sanitation and asepsis;
 - 3. Isolation of patients with known or suspected infectious diseases;
 - 4. Handling and disposal of waste and contaminants;
 - 5. Sterilization, disinfection and laundry;
 - 6. Reporting, recording and evaluation of occurrences of infections; and
 - 7. Documentation of infection rate.
- B. The facility shall report promptly to the licensing agency infectious diseases which may present a potential hazard to patients, personnel and the public. Included are the reportable diseases and the occurrences of other diseases in outbreak form.

5.5.7 Surgical Service

- A. Written staff rules and regulations and policies shall be established to govern surgical services which shall include surgical staff privileges, supporting services of professional and paramedical personnel, provisions for emergency coverage and operating suite procedures.
- B. Surgical procedures shall be performed only by physicians, dentists or podiatrists who are licensed in the state and who have been granted privileges to perform those procedures by the governing body of the FASC in accordance with § 5.4.1(E) of this Part.
- C. Each FASC shall have a written transfer agreement for transferring patients to a nearby hospital when hospitalization is indicated, or shall permit elective surgery

only by licensed practitioners who have similar privileges at a nearby licensed hospital and approved by the governing body of the FASC.

- D. Surgical procedures performed in the FASC shall be limited to those procedures and approved by the governing body.
- E. If termination of pregnancy procedures are performed in a FASC the requirements of the rules and regulations for the Termination of Pregnancy (Part 20-10-6 of this Title) shall apply.
- F. An anesthesiologist or another physician qualified in resuscitative technique shall be present or immediately available until all patients operated on a given day have been discharged.
- G. Each operating room suite shall be:
 - 1. Under the supervision of a person qualified by training and experience in operating room service;
 - 2. Designed and equipped so that the types of surgery conducted and the type of anesthesia utilized (general or local) shall meet the fire and safety requirements of §§ 5.7.2(C) and/or (D) of this Part;
 - 3. Designed to include recovery rooms, proper scrubbing, sterilizing and dressing room facilities, storage for anesthetic agents;
 - 4. Equipped to carry out all necessary and emergency procedures; and
 - 5. Provided with prominently posted policies and procedures pertaining to safety controls.
- H. All tissues/specimens removed at surgery shall be submitted for pathological examination except those exempted by the surgeon in writing.
- I. Procedures shall be established to obtain blood or blood substitutes on a timely basis.
- J. The patient's medical record shall be available in the operating room at the time of surgery and shall contain no less than the following information:
 - 1. A medical history and physical examination;
 - 2. A signed consent form for surgical procedure; and
 - 3. A pre-operative diagnosis.

- K. An accurate and complete description of operative procedure shall be recorded by the operating surgeon immediately following completion of surgery.
- L. Areas for the processing of clean and dirty supplies and equipment shall be separated by physical barriers.
- M. Written procedures shall be established for all sterilization and for the appropriate disposal of wastes and contaminated supplies.
- N. Reports of bacteriological tests and dated recordings of thermometer charts and inspection records shall be maintained on the premises.

5.5.8 Supplies and Equipment

- A. Supplies of appropriate sterile linens, gloves, dressings and so forth, shall be maintained in sufficient quantities for regular and emergency use.
- B. Such surgical instruments, accessory and operating room lights and resuscitation equipment as are appropriate for the types of surgery and surgical risks which may be encountered in a FASC shall be provided and maintained in clean and sterile condition.
- C. Supplies of appropriate drugs, medications, fluids, electrolyte solutions, etc. shall be maintained in sufficient quantities for regular and emergency use.

5.5.9 Deficiencies and Plans of Correction

- A. The licensing agency shall notify the governing body or other legal authority of a facility of violations of individual standards through a notice of deficiencies which shall be forwarded to the facility within fifteen (15) days of inspection of the facility unless the director determines that immediate action is necessary to protect the health, welfare, or safety of the public or any member thereof through the issuance of an immediate compliance order in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-1-21.
- B. A facility which received a notice of deficiencies must submit a plan of correction to the licensing agency within fifteen (15) days of the date of the notice of deficiencies. The plan of correction shall detail any requests for variances as well as document the reasons therefore.
- C. The licensing agency will be required to approve or reject the plan of correction submitted by a facility within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the plan of correction.
- D. If the licensing agency rejects the plan of correction, or if the facility does not provide a plan of correction or if a facility whose plan of correction has been

approved by the licensing agency fails to execute its plan within a reasonable time, the licensing agency may invoke the sanctions enumerated in § 5.3.6 of this Part. If the facility is aggrieved by the action of the licensing agency, the facility may appeal the decision and request a hearing in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35.

5.5.10 Laboratory and Radiology Services

- A. Each FASC may perform on the premises limited procedures such as urinalysis and CBC, provided that personnel are qualified by training and are under supervision of a physician.
- B. The requirements of the "Rules and Regulations for the Control of Radiation [R23-1.3-RAD]" pertaining to radiology shall apply to those FASC providing such services.

5.5.11 Medical Records

- A. A member of the professional staff shall be designated to supervise the medical records and to ensure proper documentation, completion, indexing, filing, retrieval and safe storage.
- B. A medical record shall be established and maintained for every patient cared for in the FASC.
- C. Each medical record shall contain sufficient information and data to support the diagnosis, plan of treatment and shall contain no less than the following:
 - 1. Patient identification, (name, address, birth date, etc.);
 - 2. Medical history and physical examination;
 - 3. Pre-operative and final diagnosis;
 - 4. Nurses' notes;
 - 5. Anesthesiologists reports, medical consultation, and counseling (if any);
 - 6. Surgeon's operative notes, progress report and discharge notes;
 - 7. Instructions given patient upon discharge; and
 - 8. Other related reports.

5.5.12 Medical Consultation

Consultation and assistance in specialty fields shall be readily available and used as indicated prior to and when necessary following a surgical procedure. A facility shall maintain a current list of consultants available.

5.5.13 Emergency Transfer

Each FASC shall have resources available for the emergency transfer of patients to a hospital. When indicated, a physician, physician assistant, or nurse shall accompany the patient.

5.6 Environmental Maintenance

5.6.1 Environment

- A. The FASC shall be maintained and equipped to provide a functional sanitary, safe and comfortable environment, with all furnishings in good repair, and the premises shall be kept free of hazards.
- B. Written policies and procedures shall be established pertaining to environmental controls to assure comfortable, safe and sanitary environment with well-lighted space for the services provided.
- C. Equipment and supplies shall be provided for cleaning of all surfaces. Such equipment shall be maintained in a safe, sanitary condition.
- D. Hazardous cleaning solutions, compounds and substances shall be labeled, stored in a safe place and kept in an enclosed section separate from other cleaning materials.
- E. Cleaning shall be performed in a manner which minimizes the spread of pathogenic organisms in the atmosphere.
- F. Operating rooms shall be thoroughly cleaned after each operation.
- G. Smoking shall be permitted only in restricted areas.

5.7 Physical Plant and Equipment

5.7.1 New Construction

- A. All new construction shall be subject to the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapters 23-28-1, 23-27.3, and The American National Standard - Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to and Usable by, The Physically Handicapped," American National Standards Institute, Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10013.

- B. In addition, any other applicable state and local laws, codes and regulations shall apply. Where there is a difference between codes, the code having the higher standard shall apply.

5.7.2 Physical Facility

- A. Patient examination, waiting, procedure and recovery rooms shall be designed and equipped to provide good and safe care, as well as to provide privacy and comfort for patients.
- B. Sufficient space shall be provided in the patient recovery areas to accommodate the patient load with a planned recovery period and to accommodate emergency equipment and staff to move freely.
- C. If flammable agents are present in an operating room, the room shall be constructed and equipped in accordance with the standards of publication No. 56A, (1973) of the "National Fire Protection Association," 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.
- D. If only non-flammable agents are present in an operating room, the room shall be constructed and equipped in compliance with standards of publication No. 56G, (1975) of the "National Fire Protection Association," 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02110.
- E. Heating and ventilation systems shall be capable of maintaining comfortable temperatures.
- F. Each FASC shall meet the fire and safety provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws 23-28.1 and shall conform with all state and local building codes.
- G. An elevator shall be provided where patient care is provided at different floor levels. The cab size of the elevator shall be large enough to accommodate a stretcher and an attendant.
- H. Medication and storage areas shall be provided and equipped with locks to ensure the safe keeping of drugs and biologicals.

5.7.3 Emergency Power

- A. Each FASC shall be equipped with an alternate emergency power source.
- B. The emergency electrical power system shall have a sufficient capacity to supply power to maintain the operation of the operating room and other life-support systems, and lighting of egress, fire detection equipment, alarm and extinguishing systems.

- C. Monthly testing of emergency power shall be documented and reports retained for at least three (3) years.

5.7.4 Lighting and Electrical Services

All electrical and other equipment used in the FASC shall be maintained free of defects which could be a potential hazard to patients or personnel. Periodic calibration and/or preventive maintenance of equipment shall be provided and documentation of all testing shall be maintained.

5.7.5 Plumbing

- A. All plumbing material and plumbing systems or parts thereof installed shall meet the minimum requirements of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-27.3.
- B. All plumbing shall be installed in such a manner as to prevent back siphonage or cross-connections between potable and non-potable water supplies.

5.7.6 Water Supply

Water shall be obtained from a community water system and shall be distributed to conveniently located taps and fixtures throughout the facility and shall be adequate in volume and pressure for all purposes including firefighting.

5.7.7 Waste Disposal

- A. Medical Waste
 - 1. Medical waste as defined in the Medical Waste Regulations (250-RICR-140-15-1), promulgated by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, shall be managed in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned regulations.
- B. Other Waste:
 - 1. Wastes which are not classified as infectious waste, hazardous wastes, or which are not otherwise regulated by law or rule may be disposed in dumpsters or load packers provided the following precautions are maintained:
 - a. Dumpsters shall be tightly covered, leak proof, inaccessible to rodents and animals, and placed on concrete slabs preferably graded to a drain. Water supply shall be available within easy accessibility for washing down of the area. In addition, the pick-up schedule shall be maintained with more frequent pick-ups when

required. The dumping site of waste materials must be in sanitary landfills approved by the Department of Environmental Management.

- b. Load packers must conform to the same restrictions required for dumpsters and in addition, load packers shall be:
 - (1) High enough off the ground to facilitate the cleaning of the underneath areas of the stationary equipment; and
 - (2) The loading section shall be constructed and maintained to prevent rubbish from blowing from said area site.

5.7.8 Waste Water Disposal

If a municipal sanitary sewer system is available, the facility shall be connected to the system, if feasible. If a municipal sanitary sewer system is not available the facility shall meet the standards set forth by the Department of Environmental Management.

5.8 Exception

5.8.1 Exception

Modification of any individual standards herein, for experimental or demonstration purposes, or any other purpose, shall require advance written approval from the licensing agency.

5.8.2 Rules Governing Practices and Procedures

All hearings and reviews required under the provisions of R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-17, shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations regarding "Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Practices and Procedures Before the Rhode Island Department of Health [R42-35-PP]" and "Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Access to Public Records of the Rhode Island Department of Health [R38-2-APRA]".

216-RICR-40-10-5

TITLE 216 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CHAPTER 40 - PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AND FACILITY REGULATION

SUBCHAPTER 10 - FACILITIES REGULATION

PART 5 - Licensing of Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Centers (216-RICR-40-10-5)

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Editorial Note: This Part was filed with the Department of State prior to the launch of the Rhode Island Code of Regulations. As a result, this digital copy is presented solely as a reference tool. To obtain a certified copy of this Part, contact the Administrative Records Office at (401) 222-2473.