

New Laws Take Effect July 14th, 2009. Are you ready?



Dear Doctor:

In June of last year New York State enacted a new law to regulate office-based procedures. The law took effect on January 1, 2009 with a six month timetable for compliance. Therefore any doctor's office performing procedures within it must be accredited by July 14, 2009. New York State has also imposed severe penalties for not complying with this new law, which include actions of the OPMC on a first offense.

Unfortunately, this new law imposes many challenges on the physicians of this state from an economic stand point as well as interferes in their practice of medicine. The cost of accreditation is very expensive by itself. Besides the fees involved, there are many other costs that add up. The physician's office needs to develop a policy and procedure manual that is specific to their office and procedures. In addition, the most expensive prospect is renovations to the office to make it compliant to the accrediting body's standards. Proper air quality to the procedure room, two means of egress, and handicap accessibility are all requirements in the accreditation process. The reality as some experts have determined is that in the end the cost of office-based accreditation could be an average of \$46,000.00 in Manhattan. The final economic ramification to this legislation for the doctor is that even if you get office accreditation, you will still only be able to bill your professional fee. New York State Public Health Law 2803 prohibits a facility fee being charged in a non-Article 28 facility for both government and non-government insurance payers.

Given the circumstance of this situation that New York State has imposed on you as a physician, there are a few alternatives for you to consider. The first option of using a hospital is not an efficient option. The lower reimbursement on top of the wait time in hospitals will have a negative effect on your bottom line across the board.

Using a Surgery Center is the best alternative to this situation. While your reimbursement will be less than in the office, the successful surgery center will have a quick turn around time between cases allowing you the ability to complete more cases and provides the full staff to assist you with your procedures effectively lowering your costs. With an anesthesiologist responsible for discharging your patient, your time spent at the center will actually be on the procedures and not waiting.

REQUIRED OFFICE ACCREDITATION:

- + Policy & Procedure Manuals
- + Air Quality
- + Handicap Accessibility
- + Average Cost in Manhattan: \$46,000

Gramercy Surgery Center is a fully licensed Article 28 Center that can provide you the best alternative in this difficult climate of government regulations. The cost of staff, equipment, and disposables make the differential not as significant knowing that your cases are done with an 8 minute turn-around between cases.

If you would like more information about Gramercy Surgery Center, please call me at the center at 212.254.3570.

Sincerely,

Eddie Schultz
Provider Relations

380 Second Avenue, 10th Floor, Suite 1000, New York, NY 10010
Email: EddieS@GramercySurgery.com Phone: 212.254.3570 Fax: 212.254.3572
A Fully Licensed Article 28 Ambulatory Surgery Center

www.GramercySurgery.com