

Ohio Department of Health

246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.odh.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland, Governor
Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., Director



N E W S

Office of Public Affairs
Robert Jennings, Director

For immediate release
Nov. 24, 2009

State Health Department Announces Award of Recovery Act Funding to Further Improve Care in Ohio’s Medicare-Certified Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Columbus, Ohio—The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently was awarded \$139,565.42 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for state surveyors to provide greater oversight in non-accredited Medicare-certified Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs).

The federal funding for this effort totals \$9 million and was made available to Ohio and 42 other states to help reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAI) in stand-alone or same-day surgical centers.

“Patients should not have to be concerned that they are at increased risk of infections when seeking health care,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. “These funds will help us continue our efforts to provide the oversight needed in these facilities and to ensure quality care.”

ASCs account for more than 43 percent of all same-day surgery in the United States, amounting to about 15 million procedures per year. The typical surgical procedures conducted in ASCs include endoscopies and colonoscopies, orthopedic procedures, plastic/reconstructive surgeries, and eye, foot, and ear/nose/throat surgeries.

Accredited facilities are surveyed by private accrediting organizations approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As part of this newly-funded initiative, Ohio will use its share of the funding to survey 100 non-accredited ASCs across the state over the next 12 months.

ODH surveyors will implement a new CMS survey process for ASCs that uses an infection control protocol developed in conjunction with the CDC. This new method will improve the extent to which ASC infection control deficiencies are identified and corrected through a facility plan of correction.

In addition to the funds being targeted for the inspection of ASCs, the CDC previously awarded Ohio \$368,868.00 in ARRA funding to assist ODH in creating or expanding state-based HAI prevention and surveillance efforts, and by strengthening the knowledge base of those public health workers trained to prevent them.

###

Contact: Ohio Department of Health, Office of Public Affairs 614-644-8562.