

June 11, 2010

RE: JAMA story media response
TO: OASCA Members

The Associated Press wire story on the JAMA article that ran Tuesday, June 8, 2010 appears to have been picked up by The Oregonian locally, but we all should continue to monitor local media outlets to see if there is any additional coverage. If you see more articles please contact Rob Schwartz, OASCA Executive Director, rob@strategicresources.ws or Patti McMinn, OASCA Administrative Assistant, at pattimcminn@comcast. Please feel free to visit the OASCA website, www.oregonasc.com, where additional information is listed including the ASC Advocacy Committee's response.

Unless the story receives more widespread pick-up, we should view it as isolated and not over-react to draw additional media attention to it. In other words, don't pour gas on what otherwise may be a "one day" story.

That said, we are prepared to respond to any and all media inquiries and to react to the JAMA article with facts that underscore the patient safety and high quality standards of ACSs in Oregon.

We will continue to expand and refine these talking points as additional information is gathered. If you receive any media calls, please refer them to Rob, telling the reporter "let me connect you with the OASCA staff person who has more information on the story."

TALKING POINTS:

The study addressed in JAMA examines adherence to the infection control practices prescribed by CMS in 68 surgery centers in Maryland, North Carolina and Oklahoma. These reports do not reflect what we are seeing here in Oregon. The surveys were done in 2008 prior to the new conditions for coverage that were introduced in May 2009. The surveys were the catalyst for stimulus money being used to survey all ASC's across the country.

In Oregon, surgery centers have been involved with the Health Care Acquired Infection Advisory Committee for the last several years. Our surgery centers are committed to the reduction of healthcare acquired infections in all healthcare settings.

Research conducted in our state indicates that Oregon ASCs have significantly higher adherence to the new infection control practices prescribed by CMS than the JAMA study suggests. These findings are based on the reporting of actual infection incidents, which is significantly more telling than looking at actual infection control practices..

ACSs in Oregon are required to maintain an infection prevention and active surveillance program. Medicare licensed centers are required to have a trained infection control nurse with designated hours to perform the job.

OASCA has been holding annual infection control seminars for ASCs and provide a certificate of training since the conditions for coverage became mandated in 2009. May 1, 2010 at the Infection Control Seminar, Amy Carl, of the Oregon Safety Commission, thanked the attendees and OASCA for actively participating with the Commission, the ongoing commitment to improving quality and safety for patients, and for continuing to work with the Oregon Safety Commission. In addition to working with the Oregon Safety Commission, Oregon surgery centers have been involved with the Health Care Acquired Infection Advisory Committee for the last several years and continue to be committed to the reduction of healthcare acquired infections in all healthcare settings.

Improving infection control practices is a significant matter facing all healthcare settings. This report highlights that all health care providers and facilities must continue to work diligently toward 100% compliance with infection control standards, and 100% patient safety.