

Surgery Center Update

OAASC Compound Drug Bill Becomes Law: SB18 Signed by Governor Taft

On May 18 Governor Bob Taft signed SB18 into law (this law will take effect thirty days after the governor's signature). The sponsor of the bill, Senator Lynn Wachtmann arranged for selected OAASC members to attend a special bill signing ceremony with the Governor. In attendance were Larry Fischer, Past Chairman; Kelly Trott, Chairperson, Government Affairs Committee; Jo Ellen Braden, Past-Chairperson, Government Affairs Committee; Lisa Spoden, Executive Director; Matt Buderer, Pharmacist (Buderer Drugs) and Kathy Dennison, OAASC Government Affairs staff. Unable to attend were Alex Rintoul, Chairman and Kim Rivello, CRNA (Riverview Health Institute).

This law affects Physicians in Ohio that order compound medications for use in their ASC, office or designated area for patient administration. The law will allow for a physician, in limited quantities, to order a compound medication without it being patient-specific, thus, allowing for medication availability to patients and no more wasted medication, ultimately decreasing healthcare costs.

As in any great achievement, there is a long list of individuals to thank and recognize. The success of SB18 was achieved through strong grassroots effort supported by OAASC members. OAASC would like to thank those individuals who demonstrated remarkable commitment

by traveling to Columbus, volunteering their time to provide proponent testimony on behalf of the SB18:

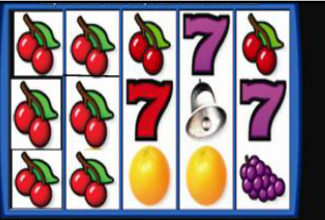
- Kim Rivello, CRNA (Riverview Health Institute)
- Matt Buderer, R.Ph. (VP, Buderer Drug Company)
- Jo Ellen Braden, OAASC Board Member (Marysville Ohio Surgical Center)
- Alex Rintoul, OAASC Chairman (UHHS Westlake Surgery Center)
- Mike Ehler, Past OAASC Board Member

We would be negligent if we did not thank the past and current OAASC Board Members for their relentless attention to this issue. There are several members who served a key role over the past three years of intense work.

We would also like to thank the entire OAASC membership. This was a movement initiated many years ago by a few members and would not have happened without the enormous support and active involvement by the membership. Many of you will go unrecognized but you know who you are. Your countless letters, e-mails and phone calls to your legislators asking for their support on SB18 (and SB196 from the 125th General Assembly) was greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you to everyone who played a role in accomplishing this goal. May 18 was a great day for Ohio's ASC industry!

Save the Date for OAASC's Biggest Show of the Year at Cherry Valley



2005 CHERRY VALLEY EDUCATIONAL RETREAT

The OAASC is proud to be able to provide a distinctive learning opportunity for coders, billers, administrative and clinical staff.

- ⇒ AAAHC & JCAHO Accreditation Pre-Conference Workshop: 9/28
- ⇒ Nursing & Clinical Day: 9/29
- ⇒ Coding, Billing & Reimbursement Day: 9/30

An educational event for the whole ASC team!
Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark, OH

YOUR STAKES ARE TOO HIGH... DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR ASC'S FUTURE! SAVE THE DATE! SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 1, 2005

OAASC offers the highest quality ASC networking and education right here in the heart of the Midwest!

Join your ASC colleagues at OAASC's biggest program of the year, the Cherry Valley Educational Retreat at the Cherry Valley Lodge in Newark September 28-October 1. The multi-discipline program will have three tracks: 1) nursing and clinical issues, 2) coding, billing and reimbursement, and 3) leadership, management and administration. There will be a pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, September 28 focusing on accreditation essentials; and featuring representatives from both AAAHC and JCAHO. Thursday's programming will focus on nursing and clinical issues, and Friday's focus will be coding, billing and reimbursement — lead by national coding expert Lolita Jones. These two tracks will be presented on separate days so that staff can come separately based on areas of expertise. More details will be announced in the coming months! If you have questions, contact Dre' Varela at 614/358-0177.

OAASC Participates in National ASC Coalition Next OAASC Board

Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, July 14

OAASC has been an active participant in a coalition of ASC leaders including Surgis, HealthSouth, National Surgical Care/Aspen, AmSurg, Symbion, United Surgical Partners, FASA, AAASC, and the Florida ASC Association. In addition to a white paper on the ASC industry, the group has been working to examine the dynamics of altering ASC reimbursement. MedPAC, in their report to Congress, the GAO, and CMS have all stated that there will be a change in ASC reimbursement. This group of concerned parties has been in active dialogue about the best way to pro-actively work with CMS and Congress to develop a system that will result in fair and equitable Medicare reimbursement to ASCs. Medicare accounts for almost 42% of ASC reimbursement. However, other payors take their lead from Medicare and the payor methodology, in many instances, looks a lot like the Medicare Payment Groupers and the Medicare rates seem to be the basis for many payment systems. In a Washington DC meeting on May 27, OAASC's Executive Director, Lisa Spoden, heard the draft report from The Moran Company which explored new rate structures and potential volume shifts. This report and other Coalition Committee work will be the basis for legislative and regulatory initiatives planned yet for this summer. Many thanks to all of the OAASC members who have contributed time and energy to the Coalition's efforts to get accurate information regarding ASC data and market trends.

The next scheduled meeting of the Ohio Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers is scheduled for Thursday, July 14 at the Conference Center at North Pointe in Columbus. All OAASC members are invited to attend the meeting or get word to any of the fifteen OAASC Board members. Current OAASC Board members include: Alex Rintoul of UHHS/Rockside Health Center, Dee Williams of Surgi+Care, Barb Draves of The Surgery Center, Tamme Hafer of Endoscopy Center of Dayton, Larry Fischer of Southwest Ohio ASC, Jo Ellen Braden of Marysville Ohio Surgery Center, Carol Fairchild of Holzer Clinic ASC, Lauralee Krabill of Northern Ohio Surgical Center, Dianne Mundersbach of Lincoln Park Surgery Center, Jo Slocum of Tri-state Centers for Sight, Kelly Trott-Theodosopoulos of Tuscarawas ASC, Toni Van of Columbus Eye Surgery Center, Lori Vernon of University Mentor ASC, Robert Baird of Samaritan North Surgery Center, and Suzi Walton of Ohio Surgery Center and OAASC Committee meetings may be held in conjunction with the meeting. Look for communications from each of the respective OAASC Committees in the immediate future to confirm OAASC Committee participation. If you have questions about the Board meeting, contact Priscilla Quinones at 614/358-0177 or pquinones@shcare.net.

Dee Williams to Resign From OAASC Board of Directors

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Dee Williams who has provided leadership to the OAASC for the past four years. Dee has served as a Board of Trustees member, Quality and Clinical Outcomes Committee member and Chairman of the Membership and Education Committee. We all wish Dee the best of luck as she pursues other career interests.

OSMA Scope of Practice Group Seeking Candidates

The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) Scope of Practice Work Group is seeking candidates to help examine and provide input on emerging scope issues such as hospital admitting privileges for advanced practice nurses, therapeutic substitution by pharmacists, and prescriptive authority for physician assistants. Candidates of interest are those physicians with previous work experience in the allied practitioner fields, but is not a requirement to participate.

Interested candidates should contact the OSMA Government Relations Group at (800) 766-6762 or via email at govrel@osma.org.

OAASC's Logo Has an Exciting New Look



The OAASC Board of Directors recently chose a new OAASC logo. The marketing and design firm, Clary Communications of Columbus, designed several logo options to represent OAASC's exciting mission, and the logo you see here was the winning design. As Clary describes this design, "The new OAASC logo consists of curving shapes that represent multiple entities working and evolving together to deliver advocacy, education and information." The Board chose this exciting and edgy new iconography. The logo was introduced during the April Board of Directors meeting. The new OAASC logo will be used on new marketing materials that will be introduced in the coming months, as well as featured prominently on OAASC's new website to be unveiled this summer.

National ASC Open House Day Coming Up on August 2

Open your doors and let the community in! In its third year, National ASC Open House Day is a great opportunity to demonstrate to communities nationwide the role ASCs play in meeting America's surgical needs. The ASCs that participated in years past found it an overwhelmingly positive experience.

By opening your doors to your community, you elevate people's awareness of ASCs and the role you play in meeting the growing health care demand. The collective efforts of ASCs across the country go a long way in helping us reach our goal of raising awareness about the personal, high-quality and cost-effective surgical care ASCs provide.

National ASC Open House Day introduces people to local ASCs before they need surgery, so they will know when the day comes that your ASC is there when they need it most.

In early June, the Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (FASA) will be sending out National ASC Open House Planning Tool Kits that will include: Open House Program Ideas, Sample Schedule, Open House Marketing Ideas, Sample Invitation, Sample Flyer, Web Marketing Strategy, and a Media Materials Planning Kit to help with media outreach for the event.

As always OAASC staff is available to help in planning this event and encourages all ASCs in Ohio to participate. If you would like more information on National ASC Open House Day, contact Kathy Dennison at 614/358-0177 or kdennison@shcare.net. Or, go to FASA's website: www.fasa.org.

U.S. General Accounting Office Survey Due Soon

The U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) has stated that their pilot survey of fifty ASCs was to occur sometime this spring. The survey is mandated per Medicare Modernization Act (MMA) legislation passed in 2003. The survey tool is expected to request information from ASC's Income Statements, procedures and corresponding volumes and non-Medicare allowable expenses such as Board of Director's salaries. Please notify the OAASC offices as soon as possible if you receive a survey. Following the pilot program, GAO states that it will survey another 400-500 ASCs.

New CMS Policy for "Advanced Technology IOLs"

OAASC has learned about a new development from its Strategic Health Care colleagues in Washington D.C. that has significant positive implications for the ophthalmology and ASC communities and, ultimately, for the broader provider and supplier sectors.

CMS will display a notice which reflects a new policy for the reimbursement of "advanced technology IOLs" (ATIOL). This is beyond the rare instances where CMS allows for an additional \$50.00 payment on innovative lens which confers a new and significant patient benefit. Instead, the new policy that the agency will display for publication will allow for:

- Medicare providers to balance-bill patients (subject to certain restrictions) the difference between the Medicare allocation and the purchase price of the ATIOL.

There are only a few products for which Medicare permits balance-billing, e.g., post-cataract eyeglasses, certain DME. Although CMS can be expected in its public pronouncements to focus on the limited nature of this exception, the implications for providers, and even more so, for manufacturers – in developing strategies for clinical trials, securing reimbursement, and marketing – are significant.

OAASC will continue to keep members updated as we learn more about this new CMS policy. If you have questions, contact OAASC reimbursement specialist Kam Yuricich at 614/358-0177 or kyuricich@shcare.net.

New MHAUS Procedure Manual for ASCs Getting Rave Reviews

The Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the United States (MHAUS) has announced the availability of its Malignant Hyperthermia (MH) Procedure Manual for the Ambulatory Surgery Center. The manual organizes and prepares the ASC staff with the latest treatment methods for an MH crisis.

MH is a metabolic crisis precipitated by triggering general anesthetics in susceptible individuals. Because MH can result in morbidity and mortality, minutes count in its management.

In dealing with MH every minute counts in reducing the chance of patient injury or death. That plan is exactly what the procedure manual will accomplish for you and your colleagues in the ASC setting, in order to minimize the risk associated with malignant hyperthermia. The manual: assigns specific tasks to staff, provides checklists and worksheets, and emphasizes frequent mock drills. The MH Procedure Manual is available in a version for office surgical settings.

For more information on the MH procedure manuals, contact MHAUS at (607)674-7901, PO Box 1069, Sherburne NY 13460, or www.mhaus.org.

CMS Gives Final Ruling on ASC Procedures

Thanks to all of you for the comments that you submitted to OAASC on the CMS proposed changes to ASC codes. Thousands of comments like yours were sent from state associations across the nation. OAASC's collaborative efforts with other state associations and the national associations in addressing our concerns have certainly paid off.

The final changes to the Medicare ASC list have been issued by CMS. The ASC industry had success on this with only five codes being deleted as opposed to the 100 original codes slated for deletion. Also sixty-five new ASC codes have been added. The final rule has been published in the May 4 Federal Register and all changes will be effective for services provided on or after July 5. The following codes will be deleted from the ASC list:

2144023600 23620 53850 69725

To the right are the sixty-five new additions.

If you have questions about this ruling, contact OAASC's reimbursement specialist Kam Yurucich at 614/358-0177 or e-mail her at kyuricich@shcare.net.

OAASC Members Head West for FASA Meeting

More than 2,300 attendees participated in the Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association's (FASA) 2005 Annual Meeting this month in San Francisco, including several representatives from Ohio. OAASC trusts that you learned a lot and had a great time in sunny California.

While you were there, if you met any great vendors or speakers that you think would be a great addition to OAASC's 2006 Annual Educational Meeting, please forward that information to Dre' Varela at avarela@shcare.net so that she can work with you to start nurturing those relationships to bring them to our own local programs. It's never too early to start planning for next year!

Mark your calendars. Next year's FASA program will be in Orlando from May 17-20. If you have questions or feedback about FASA's program, give your feedback to Dre' Varela at avarela@shcare.net or call her at 614/358-0177.

Preparing OAASC Website for Major Changes

With the new logo and the increased use of the current OAASC website, it's time to make some changes. A OAASC website task force was assembled head up this project. The task force has laid out ideas and guidelines for the new website.

One of the major changes that will be introduced will be a key word query search. This function will enable members to find information quickly. This will make access to results of the

OAASC member monthly surveys much more user-friendly. Other web enhancements will include online event and meeting registration, and online payments for membership, products, and educational events. Current resources such as the OAASC Benchmarking Tool and reporting will be accessible directly from the new website. Also, the new website "members only" section will only require a single login which is quite

different from the current cumbersome website security in which a password is required for every page.

With the assistance of the Columbus web design firm, Media Mouse Ink Art & Design, the new website should be introduced within the next few months. If you have suggestions or questions about the website, contact OAASC IT specialist Bob Kartavich at 614/358-0177 or bk@shcare.net.

OAASC Gives Members an Overview of What's Happening in the ASC Industry Across the Country

In an effort to keep you informed of the latest ASC issues that are creeping into other states, OAASC staff would like to provide a brief update on other states with explosive ASC issues.

MISSOURI — ASCs in Missouri find themselves in a particularly contentious and negative battle with the state's hospital association, which has launched a comprehensive public campaign to diminish the reputation of ASCs and other providers that the hospital group is calling "limited service providers." The Missouri Hospital Association kicked off its 2005 agenda with the publication of a series of reports, recorded telephone calls to Missouri citizens and a mailing to state citizens and legislators, all of which imply potential health threats to citizens who visit ASCs and other so-called "limited service providers." As a part of the Missouri Hospital Association's campaign against ASC, they mailed a brochure titled "What You Don't Know Could Hurt You" to more than 500,000 Missourians. Among the many anti-ASC charges contained in it, the brochure states that ASCs are "not held to the same level of accountability for patient safety and quality of care as hospitals" and the "lack of inspection and oversight is a potential threat to patient safety." The backlash to the brochure and recorded phone calls has been tremendous to those ASCs. The Missouri State Medical Association responded as being extremely disappointed that such a large organization of health care professionals would stoop to attempt to scare the public when they are

really worried about ASCs cutting into hospital profits. The Missouri State Medical Association also noted that legislators are unaware of what ASCs are and the contributions that they make to the citizens. This lack of knowledge means ASCs have to start efforts in opposition to negative legislation with a basic educational campaign. Once legislators learn about the services ASCs provide to the community their support for ASCs will grow. The Missouri Ambulatory Surgery Center Association is reacting by hosting legislative and media tours to get the good news about ASCs into the public's eye.

COLORADO — ASCs suffered a defeat when legislation developed by the Colorado Ambulatory Surgery Center Association to prevent hospitals from using economic credentialing to punish physicians who invest in ASCs was postponed indefinitely. The legislation would have prevented hospitals from refusing to award, retain or renew medical staff membership, clinical privileges or other credentials from a health care practitioner because of his or her financial interest in another health care facility.

COLORADO — Additional legislation is also pending in the Colorado legislation that would modify the existing state statute prohibiting certain provider referrals under the state's Medicaid program to make the prohibition consistent with the federal Stark law.

INDIANA — Legislation is pending in Indiana that would require physicians to provide a patient with

written notice of the physician's financial interest in a health care facility prior to referring the patient to the facility. Additionally, physicians would be required to tell the patient that he or she has the option of being referred to a facility in which the referring physician has no financial interest. An exception however would be made in emergency circumstances.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — If the legislation pending in New Hampshire is adopted, ASCs there will face stiffer fines for failing to comply with an existing law that requires ASCs and other facilities to file quarterly reports on the number of patient referral the facility receives and specific number of referrals received from each individual provider who has an ownership interest in the facility.

So, what does all this mean for the OAASC and you? We need to be proactive! As these issues have not come to Ohio yet, chances are that at least some of them may in the years to come. Education is the key! Contact your local legislators and representatives and share your perspectives on the issues that affect your ASC. Or on August 2 your surgery center can participate in the National ASC Open House Day to make allies in your community.

If you have concerns or insights about these national issues or about other issues concerning you, share them with your OAASC peers! You can get involved by participating in OAASC's Government Affairs Committee. To join the efforts of this committee or to share your concerns, contact Lisa Spoden at lspoden@shcare.net or call her at 614/358-0177.

ASC & Leadership Events in Ohio and Around the Country

[June 7-8 \(Chillicothe\), June 9-10](#)

[\(Columbus\) Management & Leadership Skills for First-Time Supervisors & Managers](#) presented by National Seminars Group. For details or to register call 800/258-7246.

[June 9 Coding Injections and Infusions teleconference](#) presented by American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). For details or to register call 800/335-5535.

[June 9 Advanced Clinic: Podiatry Surgery teleconference](#) presented by Lolita Jones. For details or to register call 301/292-8027.

[June 14 HIPAA: Dealing with Law Enforcement teleconference](#) presented by AHIMA. For details or to register call 800/335-5535.

[June 16 Evaluation and Management Audits: Data Analysis and Reporting teleconference](#) presented by AHIMA. For details or to register call 800/335-5535.

[June 20-22 Fundamentals of Marketing: Your Action Plan for Success](#) presented by American Management Association. Chicago, IL. For details or to register call 800/262-9699.

[June 20-24 Competitive Intelligence Seminars](#) presented by Fuld-Gilad-Herring Academy of Competitive Intelligence. Boston, MA. For details or to register call 888/732-6812.

[June 22 Denial Management: Turning Claims into Cash teleconference](#) presented by the Ohio State Medical Association. For details or to register e-mail mwhitacre@osma.org.

[June 23 Diagnostic and Procedural Coding for Shunts teleconference](#) presented by AHIMA. For details or to register call 800/335-5535.

[June 27-29 Fundamentals of Marketing: Your Action Plan for Success](#) presented by American Management Association. Washington, DC. For details or to register call 800/262-9699.

[June 27-29 How to Build a Truly Connected Healthcare Community](#) presented by HealthVision. Grapevine, TX. For details or to register call 800/824-5146.

[June 28 Preventing Sentinel Events](#) presented by Joint Commission Resources (JCR). Rosemont, IL. For details or to register call 877/223-6866.

[June 29 Key Performance Indicators](#) presented by OAASC Associate Members, Somerset CPAs, P.C.

Indianapolis, IN. For details or to register call 800/469-7206.

[July 11 Infection Control: Standards and Strategies for Improving Patient Safety](#) presented by JCR. **Cincinnati**. For details call 513/531-0200.

[July 12 Staffing and Competency: Keys to Patient Safety](#) presented by JCR. Wallingford, CT. For details or to register call 203/294-7267.

[July 14 OAASC Board Meeting & Annual Strategic Planning Session](#) Conference Center at North Pointe, Columbus. For details call Priscilla at 614/358-0177.

[July 14 Advanced Clinic: Arthroscopic Knee Surgery teleconference](#) presented by Lolita Jones. For details call 301/292-8027.

[July 14-15 Accreditation Essentials: Ambulatory Care](#) presented by JCR. **Cleveland**. For details or to register call 440/331-2721.

[July 19 Tracer Methodology, Conducting Tracers in Your Organization](#) presented by JCR. Oakbrook Terrace, IL. For details or to register call 877/223-6866.

[July 21 Kentucky Ambulatory Surgery Center Association Annual Educational Workshop](#) featuring keynote speaker AAASC Executive Director, Craig Jeffries. Louisville, KY. For details call Priscilla at the KASCA offices, 888/322-7317.

[July 22 Accreditation Essentials: Point-of-Care Testing](#) presented by JCR. Naperville, IL. For details or to register call 630/276-5440.

[July 26-27 Creating a Patient-Safe Organization: A Joint Commission Executive Retreat](#) presented by JCR. Charleston, WV. For details or to register call 304/344-9744.

[August 2 National ASC Open House Day](#). For details call Kathy Dennison at 614/358-0177.

[August 6-10 72nd American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Annual Meeting](#). Washington, DC. For details or to register call 847/692-7050.

[August 8 Turning Theory into Practice: The Next Steps for e-HIM](#) presented by AHIMA. Nashville, TN. For details or to register call 800/335-5535.

[August 11 Advanced Clinic: Breast Surgery teleconference](#) presented by Lolita Jones. For details or to register call 301/292-8027.

[August 23 Turning Theory into Practice: The Next Steps for e-HIM](#) presented by AHIMA. Minneapolis, MN. For details or to register call 800/335-5535.

[September 8 Advanced Clinic: Arteriovenous Fistulas / Shunts teleconference](#) presented by Lolita Jones. For details or to register call 301/292-8027.

[September 16-18 Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Mid-Year Seminar](#). Tampa, FL. For details call 850/878-7538.

[September 28 OAASC Accreditation Workshop—Cherry Valley Pre-Conference featuring representatives from AAAHC and JCAHO](#). Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark. For details call Dre' at 614/358-0177.

[September 29-October 1 OAASC 2nd Annual Cherry Valley Educational Retreat](#). Cherry Valley Lodge, Newark. For details call Dre' at 614/358-0177.

[September 29 OAASC Board Meeting](#) at Cherry Valley. For details call Priscilla at 614/358-0177.

[October 13 Advanced Clinic: Skin Grafts teleconference](#) presented by Lolita Jones. For details or to register call 301/292-8027.

[October 15-20 American Health Information Management Association Annual Convention and Exhibit](#). San Diego, CA. For details or to register call 312/233-1100.

[October 21 Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia Meeting](#). New Orleans, LA. For details or to register call 847/825-5586.

[October 22-26 American Society of Anesthesiologist](#) presented by the Dannemiller Foundation. Las Vegas, NV. For details or to register call 800/328-2308.

[November 10-12 Today's SurgiCenter Conference](#). Las Vegas, NV. For details go to www.surgicenterconference.com.

[December 13 OAASC Board Meeting and Holiday Reception](#). Columbus location to be announced. For details call Priscilla at 614/358-0177.

OAASC does not guarantee or endorse the content of the events listed above, but lists them as a service to our membership. Accuracy and liability of event content rests with the sponsoring individual or organization. Thank you.