



Dr Comfort Updates – Mar 28, 2008

Section 4 of Accreditation Requirements

This section of the accreditation standards relates to **Facility and Safety Management Standards**. As stated in some of the literature on this topic, health care settings are inherently risky environments. Accrediting sources are going to be looking for adequate and well-equipped space in your facilities including 1) facility safety, 2) safety management and 3) environmental safety.

Here we go....

- The *facility complies with state and local health and fire codes* and is designed to *protect patients, personnel*, etc. from safety hazards
- The *buildings and grounds are set up in an appropriate manner* to match the services provided and accommodate the nature of the person expected to visit the facility. Don't forget about accommodating the physically challenged.
- You have a *safety management program* in place – safety inspections are performed at least annually
- You *discourage the use of smoking materials* – or provide areas for such use
- The facility has policies and procedures to *minimize the transmission of infections* to include blood born pathogens
- There is an *equipment management program* designed to assess and control the physical and clinical risks of fixed and portable equipment.

These should be pretty manageable.

Next week we will present the final section on **Supplier Compliance**. If you want to peek ahead, feel free to go to the ABC web site at www.abcop.org. We will also talk about the various companies that are willing to help you prepare the documentation required to become accredited.

What Happens If We Need More Information About Your Order?

We have been seeing a rise in “missing information” on order forms as of late. These include incomplete names, “dots” that aren't filled in, inserts not ordered, etc. We are now faxing these incomplete order forms back to you and will ask that you complete the identified areas and fax it back to us. Thanks.

Not Getting Your Medicare Reimbursement?

We hear it every day – Medicare reimbursements have slowed to a crawl. There are horror stories about not getting reimbursed for months! What can you do? Don't panic – but do get involved. Check to see that you are billing under the correct NPI number. Call your region's reimbursement agency – and don't get off the phone until you have the answer that you want. If these don't work – call your local congressman and get their office involved. Continue to escalate this issue. You performed the work and deserve to be paid!

YOU DESERVE OUR COMFORT!