



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

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HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

September 12, 2008

TO: All Ambulatory Care Surgery Facilities Licensed Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43A

FROM: Heather Howard
Commissioner

SUBJECT: Patient Safety Act Reporting

The Department of Health and Senior Services adopted administrative rules at N.J.A.C. 8:43E-10 *et seq.* implementing the Patient Safety Act, N.J.S.A. 26:2H-12.23 through 12.25. The rules require licensed health care facilities to report every serious preventable adverse event that occurs within the licensed facility to the Department. N.J.A.C. 8:43E-10.2 provided a phased-in implementation schedule and the rules became effective on August 30, 2008, for ambulatory care facilities licensed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:43A. The purpose of this memo is to advise licensed ambulatory surgery facilities concerning the Department's intention to implement serious event reporting under the Patient Safety Act on October 1, 2008. During the next several months, the Department will assist the newly reporting facilities through training and consultation.

Materials describing the reporting requirements are available on the Department's web site at www.nj.gov/health/ps. This web site also includes the newsletters and annual reports which the Department developed as a result of the reporting system and may be useful in developing your patient safety program. For reporting requirements, see the mandatory Patient Safety Reporting Requirements for Licensed Health Care Facilities available on the web site and the administrative rules at N.J.A.C. 8:43E-10 et seq.

The Department's Patient Safety Initiative will direct all communications to the person that each licensed facility designates as the patient safety contact. Please complete the attached form designating a contact and fax to the Patient Safety Initiative before September 20, 2008. The Department will provide training on reporting and root cause analysis development within the next several months. For questions about patient safety reporting, please contact Frances Prestianni, PhD at Frances.Prestianni@doh.state.nj.us or at 609.633.7759.

Attachment