



Department of Health

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HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

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Dear Office-Based Surgery practices:

The New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) Office-Based Surgery (OBS) Program is dedicated to promoting and improving patient safety and quality health services for all New Yorkers undergoing procedures performed in an office-based setting. The NYSDOH's Office of Quality and Patient Safety ensures that all OBS practices are accredited and monitors data related to reportable adverse events. This enables the NYSDOH to identify trends in the quality of care, potential risks, and opportunities for quality improvement.

Public Health Law § 230-d(4)(b) provides the NYSDOH with the authority to require OBS practices to report procedural information and other data as needed for the interpretation of adverse events. The NYSDOH intends to propose a regulation that would require reporting of such additional information.

The OBS program has developed an online annual reporting tool so that OBS practices may submit procedural and essential practice data. The reporting tool's twelve questions include requests for practice descriptors, such as National Provider Identifier, and counts of the volume and types of procedures performed in the practice during a calendar year. The NYSDOH will also make de-identified, aggregated data available to OBS practices and stakeholders, to increase awareness about adverse events and to facilitate OBS quality improvement.

In the interest of patient safety, and to ensure compliance readiness with respect to the upcoming regulations, the NYSDOH strongly encourages all OBS practices to report this additional information for the calendar year 2017. In July 2017, the NYSDOH conducted a data collection pilot, during which 179 (18%) of OBS practices voluntarily submitted practice reports for calendar year 2016, using the Department's Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS), an application of the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS). This pilot demonstrated that the data collection is feasible. Practices also identified opportunities to improve the NYSDOH's instructions for accessing the HCS and HERDS application and suggested changes to the format of certain questions in the reporting tool. The NYSDOH revised the instructions and formatting to address this feedback. The requested data elements have remained the same (see enclosures).

This year, the NYSDOH requests that all practices report 2017 data during a reporting period that will run from March 31, 2018 through June 30, 2018. The reporting tool will again be

available on the HERDS application of the HCS. All OBS practices are strongly encouraged to participate in the 2018 practice report.

Please see the following enclosures which provide more detail regarding practice reporting, the use of HCS and accessing the HERDS application in the HCS:

- Office Based-Surgery Alert
- OBS Practice Report Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- HCS/HERDS Procedure; Activating Your HCS Account
- OBS Surgery Report using HERDS; Quick Reference Card

Thank you for your thoughtful feedback and for your commitment in ensuring the safety of office based surgery. We also would like to thank the practices who completed the pilot report this past July.

Should you have any questions regarding the annual practice report, please contact the Office of Quality and Patient Safety, OBS Program at (518) 408-1219 or at obs@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Marcus Friedrich, M.D., MBA, FACP
Chief Medical Officer
Office of Quality and Patient Safety