



AAAASF implemented COVID-19 Checklist for Surgery Facilities

Dubai, United Arab Emirates 19 May 2020: The American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF) remains committed to quality care and patient safety, especially in times of crisis. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AAAASF has worked tirelessly to keep facilities up to date with the most current information. AAAASF Executive Director, Thomas S. Terranova said "We have implemented tools and gathered resources so our accredited facilities can make the best-informed choices possible, as surgery facilities begin to reopen, AAAASF is ready to assist accredited facilities in ensuring that clinic operations are carried out in the safest manner possible."

Mr. Thomas added "AAAASF has developed an approach that facilities can use in order to achieve the most efficient path to reopening. A comprehensive checklist has been created that can be used to ensure no critical steps are missed during the reopening phase. It also includes information related to current clinical data and resources to assist you along the way. The checklist that was developed by our leading clinicians includes activities to consider along a phased-in timeline. This timeline includes activities that you should consider beginning right away, others that should be started at least two weeks prior to your anticipated reopening, and final tasks for the days just preceding the reopening."

General categories included in this checklist include:

- Updating policies and procedures relative to COVID-19, including infection control and screening for all staff, patients and visitors;
- Terminal cleaning and sanitizing the entire facility prior to treating patients;
- Inventory of supplies and medications to assure availability of PPE, surgical supplies and medication, including those required to respond to emergencies and to ensure any outdated supplies and medications have been replaced;
- Equipment checks, maintenance, and any needed re-calibration to assure proper functioning;
- Evaluating revised patient screening activities and flow through your facility; and,
- Educating staff on any changes implemented in response to the pandemic.

Please visit the AAAASF website to download the full checklist to help proactively deal with the many issues that may arise upon reopening. [Tony – please link to this page: <https://www.aaaasf.org/aaaasfs-guide-to-re-opening-your-aaaasf-accredited-facility-after-closure-due-to-covid-19/>]



About AAAASF:

AAAASF strives for the highest standards of excellence for its facilities by regularly updating its requirements for patient safety and quality of care, while requiring facilities to continually self-assess and evolve. Facility quality improvement plans must include identifying and correcting deficiencies cited during the facility's annual inspection. This shows that the facility is taking their feedback into account.

AAAASF also requires facilities to collect and report on patient safety data from a number of cases each quarter, and mandates facility meetings to peer review cases throughout the year.

Through these measures, AAAASF aims to improve the performance and quality of the facilities it accredits, while also ensuring the standards are maintained.

AAAASF was established in 1980 to standardize and improve the quality of health care in outpatient facilities. AAAASF accredits thousands of facilities world-wide.

Physicians, clinicians, legislators, state/federal health agencies, and patients acknowledge that AAAASF sets the 'Gold Standard in Accreditation'.