

# Memo



**Date:** February 28, 2014  
**To:** Ambulatory Surgical Centers  
**From:** Minnesota Department of Health – Health Economics Program  
**Subj.:** Suspension of 2014 Ambulatory Surgical Center Registration and Reporting for the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (SQRMS)

Minnesota Statutes 62U.02 requires the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to establish a standardized set of quality measures for health care providers across the state. To implement the collection of quality measurement data, MDH developed the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System (SQRMS), created through Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4654. This rule compels physician clinics, ambulatory surgical centers (ASC), and hospitals to submit data on a set of quality measures to be publicly reported and also establishes a broader standardized set of quality measures for health care providers across the state.

Since 2011, ASCs have been required to annually register with MDH's vendor, MN Community Measurement (MNCM), and report on three quality measures: (1) Appropriate Surgical Site Hair Removal; (2) Prophylactic IV Antibiotic Testing; and (3) Hospital Transfer/Admission. During the three years that ASCs have reported on SQRMS quality measures, they have shown high performance on all three measures (see Table 1).

**Table 1. Statewide Rates for SQRMS ASC Quality Measures**

Measure	Service Year	Rate	Interpretation
Appropriate Surgical Site Hair Removal	2010	98.1%	Higher rates are better
	2011	98.9%	
	2012	98.9%	
Prophylactic IV Antibiotic Testing	2010	98.0%	Higher rates are better
	2011	99.1%	
	2012	99.1%	
Hospital Transfer/Admission	2010	0.1%	Lower rates are better
	2011	0.2%	
	2012	0.2%	

Service year: July 1 through June 30.  
Source: MDH Health Economics Program analysis of SQRMS data.

**Considering that nearly all ASCs have achieved a similar high level of performance on the three quality measures and to reduce provider reporting burden, MDH has determined that it will suspend SQRMS ASC registration and quality measure reporting during 2014.** This means that ASCs do not need to register with MNCM by April 1, 2014 or submit data to MNCM by August 15, 2014. This suspension only applies to SQRMS requirements for ASCs.

During 2014, MDH will deliberate ASC registration and reporting requirements for 2015. MDH welcomes the opportunity to work with ASCs and their professional associations during 2014 to assess future measurement. Additionally, MDH updates SQRMS registration and reporting requirements annually through the state rulemaking process and invites public feedback multiple times throughout the process, and the first comment period will open in April. MDH invites community input on quality reporting topics and measures for ASCs in 2015. MDH communicates news and information about SQRMS through its weekly Health Reform announcement, [www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/announce/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/announce/index.html). Information on SQRMS can be found at [www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/measurement/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/measurement/index.html).