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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVERAL ADDITIONAL OUTPATIENT SURGICAL CENTERS FOUND TO HAVE DEFICIENT PRACTICES No Further Infectious Disease Reports Identified

Carson City—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that the Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Licensure and Certification (BLC) has found several outpatient surgical centers that have had deficiencies noted during Focus Surveys currently being conducted. The Surveys are being completed as part of the State's effort to inspect all fifty Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) in the state that perform outpatient surgical procedures.

In Northern Nevada, Focus Survey inspections have been done at ten of 19 ASCs. Three facilities in Reno were found to be deficient due to a lack of using proper antiseptic practices or for not using proper infectious disease prevention procedures. Five other facilities were found to have problems that did not pose an infectious disease risk. In all eight cases, immediate corrective action was undertaken before BLC staff exited the facility. At two facilities, Sierra Vista Surgery Center and South Meadows Endoscopy Center, no deficiencies were noted.

In Clark County, the Gastrointestinal Diagnostic Center will receive a formal Statement of Deficiencies on Monday, March 10, from BLC. The deficiencies noted at the facility are similar to those discovered at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada. The facility will have ten days to submit its Plan of Correction to BLC (March 21, 2008). Upon further inspection, if the facility is found to be negligent in adhering to the Plan of Correction, the facility is subject to summary suspension of its license.

“It is important to note there has been absolutely no known infectious disease reports associated with any of the facilities that were notified of deficient practices,” Willden said. “Further, the Bureau of Licensure and Certification does not leave a facility whose practices pose a threat to public health until corrective action is taken.”

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Willden said the State Health Division continues to work closely with the Washoe County Health Division and the Southern Nevada Health Division to monitor any reports of infectious disease any of the three agencies discovers.

Three facilities in the Reno area who were identified as being deficient due to a lack of using proper antiseptic practices or for not using proper infectious disease prevention procedures are:

- St. Mary's Outpatient Clinic at Galena
18653 Wedge Parkway, Reno
 - Improper sterilization procedures
- Digestive Health Center
5250 Kietzke Lane, Reno
 - Improper sterilization procedures
- Sierra Center for Foot Surgery
1801 N. Carson Street, Carson City
 - Staff admitted reusing syringes

Willden said the State Health Division will post on its website (<http://health.nv.gov>) information about all ASC inspections by BLC. Members of the public may call (775) 684-5900 24 hours a day to receive information about any questions related to the inspections or infectious disease prevention.

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