

Richard Whitley, MS
Administrator

Mary Guinan, M.D., PhD
Acting State Health Officer



Contact Name: Martha Framsted, PIO
Phone Number: 775.684.4014
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NEVADA STATE HEALTH DIVISION

NEWS RELEASE

Lake Tahoe Surgical Center Instructed to Cease All Patient Care Procedures

Carson City—Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Licensure and Certification (BLC) has issued a cease patient care order to the Lake Tahoe Surgical Center due to unsafe infection control practices identified during an unannounced inspection conducted by a federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) survey team. The order includes **all** patient care procedures, including surgical procedures.

The CMS inspection of the facility is ongoing. Specific details will be released by CMS once the inspection is complete and a Statement of Deficiency has been issued to the facility by CMS (NOTE: For additional information pertaining to the CMS inspection or to receive a copy of the CMS Statement of Deficiencies, contact Paula Perse at (415) 744-3746).

To date, there is no evidence to suggest any transmission of disease in patients who received procedures at the Lake Tahoe Surgical Center.

The Nevada State Health Division immediately contacted the appropriate professional licensing boards—State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Board of Nursing—to report the unsafe infection control practices observed by CMS staff.

During a March 13, 2008, state licensure focus survey conducted by BLC at this facility, surveyors found that the facility did not maintain an infection control program designed in accordance with accepted standards of practice to prevent the development and transmission of disease/infection. Further, BLC surveyors found that Lake Tahoe Surgical Center staff were not properly trained or qualified to assure the reprocessing of surgical instruments was done in a safe manner.

Prior to BLC surveyors leaving the facility on March 13, the owners and operators of Lake Tahoe Surgical Center assured the surveyor staff that training and monitoring of staff would be accomplished, and that surgical procedures and all other procedures would be cancelled until this was completed. The owners closed the facility from March 14 to March 18 in order to complete the training. BLC was provided a Plan of Correction by the facility on April 1, 2008, which was accepted the next day.



Richard Whitley, Administrator

4150 Technology Way, Suite 300, Carson City, Nevada 89706
Phone (775) 684-4200, Fax (775) 684-4211
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The results of earlier State Health Division's ASC Focus Survey Status conducted during the month of March are posted on its website, <http://health.nv.gov>. The spreadsheet under "ASC Focused Survey Status" provides the names of all of ASCs in Nevada, the most recent survey date for each ASC, links to applicable Statement of Deficiencies reports, and national accreditation information.

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