



Florida Orthopaedic Society Medical Economics Committee Monthly Practice Management Tip



February 2004

DON'T BE TAKEN IN BY ADS FOR ASSISTANCE ON NEW AHCA LICENSURE RULES

Unscrupulous attorneys and businessmen continue to send doctors misleading advertisements regarding AHCA's clinic licensure rules. These ads lead a doctor to believe that if he or she doesn't sign up for the services being offered, the practice may be in jeopardy. What the ads fail to tell doctors is that **THE AHCA MEDICAL CLINIC LICENSURE RULES PROBABLY DO NOT AFFECT YOUR PRACTICE.** You are only affected if someone that is **NOT** a physician or a spouse or child of a physician has an ownership interest in your practice. If someone who is not a physician (or a physician's family member) does have an ownership interest in the practice, the clinic was already being regulated by the Department of Health. Those duties have now been inherited by AHCA. Before signing on for one of these seminars or paying an attorney for advice on the matter, make sure the new rules apply to you. Email fcobbe@tampabay.rr.com if you have questions.

MEDICAL CLINIC LICENSURE EXEMPTIONS

The FMA has run notices to inform members that most physicians in Florida **DO NOT** have to license their offices with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA); the Clinic Licensure law applies to clinics that are not owned by a physician or his/her family. (see above)

However, if a physician does a lot of **PIP** work, he or she may want to obtain a certificate of exemption from AHCA stating that licensure is **NOT** needed. The physician may have his/her PIP insurance reimbursements initially turned down by a PIP insurance company for failing to be licensed, and may need proof that he or she is exempt. This certificate may assist in more timely reimbursement from the PIP carriers. The licensure laws take effect in March so please be aware if you see a sudden change in reimbursement patterns from PIP carriers.

If a physician is interested in obtaining a certificate of exemption, go to:

http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us/MCHQ/Health_Facility_Regulation/HealthCareClinic/applications.shtml
and click on Application for Certificate of Exemption.

FOS Conducting Survey of Orthopaedic Marketplace in Florida

In the middle of December, the FOS distributed a survey that will provide our organization and members with some important data on the orthopaedic marketplace in Florida. A second mailing has just been distributed and is targeted to office administrators where possible or one of the surgeons in the practice. This was necessary so we maintain the accuracy of the data by receiving only one completed survey from each practice. If you have not done so already, please make sure you locate and complete the survey utilizing the important instructions provided with the form. While the first mailing received a significant number of completed surveys, we really need wider participation if the survey data is going to be a valuable tool for our members. Please contact the Society if your practice did not receive a survey.

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