

CHAPTER 305

AN ACT concerning the licensure of certain surgical practices and ambulatory care facilities and amending P.L.1971, c.136.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. Section 12 of P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-12) is amended to read as follows:

C.26:2H-12 Operation, requirements for health care facility; application for license; fee.

12. a. No health care service or health care facility shall be operated unless it shall: (1) possess a valid license issued pursuant to this act, which license shall specify the kind or kinds of health care services the facility is authorized to provide; (2) establish and maintain a uniform system of cost accounting approved by the commissioner; (3) establish and maintain a uniform system of reports and audits meeting the requirements of the commissioner; (4) prepare and review annually a long range plan for the provision of health care services; and (5) establish and maintain a centralized, coordinated system of discharge planning which assures every patient a planned program of continuing care and which meets the requirements of the commissioner which requirements shall, where feasible, equal or exceed those standards and regulations established by the federal government for all federally-funded health care facilities but shall not require any person who is not in receipt of State or federal assistance to be discharged against his will.

b. (1) Application for a license for a health care service or health care facility shall be made upon forms prescribed by the department. The department shall charge a single, nonrefundable fee for the filing of an application for and issuance of a license and a single, nonrefundable fee for any renewal thereof, and a single, nonrefundable fee for a biennial inspection of the facility, as it shall from time to time fix in rules or regulations; provided, however, that no such licensing fee shall exceed \$10,000 in the case of a hospital and \$4,000 in the case of any other health care facility for all services provided by the hospital or other health care facility, and no such inspection fee shall exceed \$5,000 in the case of a hospital and \$2,000 in the case of any other health care facility for all services provided by the hospital or other health care facility. No inspection fee shall be charged for inspections other than biennial inspections. The application shall contain the name of the health care facility, the kind or kinds of health care service to be provided, the location and physical description of the institution, and such other information as the department may require.

(2) A license shall be issued by the department upon its findings that the premises, equipment, personnel, including principals and management, finances, rules and bylaws, and standards of health care service are fit and adequate and there is reasonable assurance the health care facility will be operated in the manner required by this act and rules and regulations thereunder.

(3) The department shall post on its Internet website each inspection report prepared following an inspection of a residential health care facility, as defined in section 1 of P.L.1953, c.212 (C.30:11A-1) or licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), that is performed pursuant to this subsection, along with any other inspection report prepared by or on behalf of the department for such facility.

If an inspection reveals a serious health and safety violation at a residential health care facility, the department shall post the inspection report, including the name of the facility and the owner of the facility, on its website no later than 72 hours following the inspection. If a license of a residential health care facility is suspended, the department shall post the suspension on its website no later than 72 hours following the suspension. The department

shall update its website to reflect the correction of a serious health and safety violation, and the lifting of a suspension.

The department shall notify, as soon as possible, the Commissioner of Human Services, or the commissioner's designee, and the director of the county board of social services or county welfare agency, as appropriate, in the county in which a residential health care facility is located, of a serious health and safety violation at the facility and of any suspension of a license to operate such facility.

If the inspection responsibilities under this subsection with respect to such facility are transferred or otherwise assigned to another department, that other department shall post on its Internet website each inspection report prepared following an inspection of such facility performed pursuant to this subsection, along with any other inspection report prepared by or on behalf of that department for such facility, and shall comply with the other requirements specified in this subsection.

c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1998, c.43).

d. The commissioner may amend a facility's license to reduce that facility's licensed bed capacity to reflect actual utilization at the facility if the commissioner determines that 10 or more licensed beds in the health care facility have not been used for at least the last two succeeding years. For the purposes of this subsection, the commissioner may retroactively review utilization at a facility for a two-year period beginning on January 1, 1990.

e. If a prospective applicant for licensure for a health care service or facility that is not subject to certificate of need review pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et al.) so requests, the department shall provide the prospective applicant with a pre-licensure consultation. The purpose of the consultation is to provide the prospective applicant with information and guidance on rules, regulations, standards and procedures appropriate and applicable to the licensure process. The department shall conduct the consultation within 60 days of the request of the prospective applicant.

f. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, an entity that provides magnetic resonance imaging or computerized axial tomography services shall be required to obtain a license from the department to operate those services prior to commencement of services, except that a physician who is operating such services on the effective date of P.L.2004, c.54 shall have one year from the effective date of P.L.2004, c.54 to obtain the license.

g. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, an entity that operates a surgical practice on the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24, as defined in this subsection, shall be required to register with the department within one year of the effective date of P.L.2009, c.24.

(2) An entity that has not commenced operation as a surgical practice on the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24, but has filed or files before the 180th day after the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24 its plans, specifications, and required documents with the municipality in which the surgical practice will be located, shall register with the department prior to the commencement of services.

(3) As a condition of registration with the department, a surgical practice shall be required to obtain certification by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as an ambulatory surgery center provider or obtain ambulatory care accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and continually maintain such accreditation.

(4) As a condition of registration with the department, a surgical practice shall be required to report the following information annually: the number of patients served by

payment source, including the number of Medicaid-eligible and medically indigent persons served; the number of new patients accepted; and the number of physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice nurses providing professional services at the surgical practice.

(5) As used in this subsection and subsection i. of this section, "surgical practice" means a structure or suite of rooms that has the following characteristics:

(a) has no more than one room dedicated for use as an operating room which is specifically equipped to perform surgery, and is designed and constructed to accommodate invasive diagnostic and surgical procedures;

(b) has one or more post-anesthesia care units or a dedicated recovery area where the patient may be closely monitored and observed until discharged; and

(c) is established by a physician, physician professional association surgical practice, or other professional practice form specified by the State Board of Medical Examiners pursuant to regulation solely for the physician's, association's or other professional entity's private medical practice.

"Surgical practice" includes an unlicensed entity that is certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as an ambulatory surgery center provider.

(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the State Board of Medical Examiners from establishing standards of care with respect to the practice of medicine.

h. An ambulatory care facility licensed to provide surgical and related services shall be required to obtain ambulatory care accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a condition of licensure by the department.

An ambulatory care facility that is licensed to provide surgical and related services on the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24 shall have one year from the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24 to obtain ambulatory care accreditation.

i. Beginning on the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24, the department shall not issue a new registration to a surgical practice or a new license to an ambulatory care facility to provide surgical and related services unless:

(1) in the case of a registered surgical practice or licensed facility in which a transfer of ownership of the practice or facility is proposed, the commissioner reviews the qualifications of the new owner or owners and approves the transfer;

(2) (a) except as provided in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, in the case of a registered surgical practice or licensed facility for which a relocation of the practice or facility is proposed, the relocation is within 20 miles of the practice's or facility's current location or the relocation is to a "Health Enterprise Zone" designated pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2004, c.139 (C.54A:3-7), there is no expansion in the scope of services provided at the new location from that of the current location, and the commissioner reviews and approves the relocation prior to its occurrence; or

(b) in the case of a licensed facility described in paragraph (5) or (6) of this subsection for which a relocation of the facility is proposed, the commissioner reviews and approves the relocation prior to its occurrence;

(3) the entity is a surgical practice required to be registered pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection g. of this section and meets the requirements of that subsection;

(4) the entity has filed its plans, specifications, and required documents with the Health Care Plan Review Unit of the Department of Community Affairs or the municipality in which the surgical practice or facility will be located, as applicable, on or before the 180th day following the effective date of this section of P.L.2009, c.24;

(5) the facility is owned jointly by a general hospital in this State and one or more other parties; or

(6) the facility is owned by a hospital or medical school in this State, or the facility is owned by any hospital approved on or before the effective date of this act to provide ambulatory surgery services in this State, or the facility is owned by a hospital which applied on or before the effective date of this act to provide ambulatory surgery services in this State so long as the hospital is later approved to provide ambulatory surgery services at the facility, or the facility is owned by any hospital approved to provide ambulatory surgery services at another facility in this State.

j. (1) The department shall require an applicant for registration as a surgical practice, as provided in subsection g. of this section, to submit an application for registration in a form and manner prescribed by the department. The applicant shall submit the name and address of the surgical practice that is to be registered, the name of the chief administrator or designated agent of the practice, the names and addresses of all owners of the practice, the scope of services provided at the practice, proof of certification by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or accreditation from an accrediting body recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and such other information as the commissioner deems necessary and as provided by regulation.

(2) The registration shall be valid for a one-year period and may be renewed upon submission to the department of an application for renewal.

(3) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or deny a registration if the registrant or applicant, as applicable, is not in compliance with the requirements of this section.

(4) No registered surgical practice shall be owned, managed, or operated by any person convicted of a crime relating adversely to the person's capability of owning, managing, or operating the practice.

(5) The department may charge a reasonable fee for filing an application for registration and for each renewal thereof.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 19, 2016.