



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

March 5, 2021

Eileen Fleck, Chief,
Acute Care Policy and Planning
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215
Via email: Eileen.Fleck@maryland.gov,

RE: Comments on the Draft State Health Plan for Facilities Services: General Surgical Services COMAR 10.24.11

Dear Ms. Fleck,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide informal comments on the Draft State Health Plan for Facilities Services: General Surgical Services COMAR 10.24.11.

The proposed changes in the Draft reflect the definitions established in the Health General Section 19–3B–01 and 19–3B–03 as a result of legislation that passed in during the 2020 Session: : [“SB728/HB935 - Health Facilities - Freestanding Ambulatory Care Facilities - Administration of Anesthesia.”](#) Under the law, definitions for Non-Sterile Procedure room and Sterile Procedure room were added as was the provision that: AN ANESTHESIA PRACTITIONER IS NOT PRECLUDED FROM PROVIDING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ANESTHESIA SUPPORT THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO SAFELY TREAT PATIENTS UNDERGOING PROCEDURES IN A FREESTANDING AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITY PERFORMED IN A NONSTERILE PROCEDURE ROOM OR A STERILE OPERATING ROOM.

Specifically, we support the proposed changes to the State Health Plan for Facilities Services: General Surgical Services COMAR 10.24.11 on document pages 27-28 incorporate the language from SB728/HB935 under the definitions for "Procedure Room" (non sterile) and "Special Purpose Operating Room" (sterile). The anesthesia practitioner language noted above is also incorporated in the proposed “procedure room” definition.

We appreciate the Maryland Health Care Commission’s (MHCC) recognition of the patient safety concerns raised by the MSA and working together during the 2020 Session to achieve passage of SB728 and HB935. The proposed draft reflects this important patient safety initiative. We are glad to participate in any stakeholder discussions regarding the proposed draft.

Sincerely,

Ram Peruvemba

Ramani Peruvemba M.D., FASA
MSA President