

Credentialing for Healthcare Vendors in Patient Care

Many healthcare systems and hospitals base their vendor representative requirements on the following guidelines. These requirements are in addition to credentials, such as financial status, sanction clearance, and insurance liability, required of the vendor company.

American Council of Surgeons (ACS) *Statement on Health Care Industry Representatives in the Operating Room* Supplier must wear a time sensitive means of identification at all times in the OR, be orientated to the particular healthcare facility, should be trained in HIPAA compliance and appropriate OR conduct and attire, and must receive education concerning infectious disease, blood borne pathogens, occupational safety, aseptic technique, and other applicable practices relating to the operation. (www.facs.org)

The Association of Peri-Operative Registered Nurses (AORN) *The Role of the Health Care Industry Representative in the Perioperative/Invasive Procedure Setting* "It is important that the health care industry representative understands how to safely work in the operating room to assist the perioperative team in maintaining the patient's safety, right to privacy, and confidentiality when a health care industry representative is present during a surgical procedure." (<http://www.aorn.org/PracticeResources/AORNPositionStatements/>)

The Joint Commission "The standards in the human resource chapter apply to direct, contract, and volunteer personnel providing patient care and/or services on behalf of an organization, regardless of whether the contracted organization is accredited." These standards include verified education, training, orientation, health status, and other items. (http://www.jointcommission.org/AccreditationPrograms/Hospital/Standards/09_FAQs/HR/Human_Resource_Standards.htm)

Centers for Disease Control *Immunization of Health-Care Workers* These recommendations outline a variety of immunization guidelines for health care workers ranging from physicians to volunteers. (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00050577.htm>)

AdvaMed's Code of Ethics – Effective July 1, 2009, the code incorporates a list of certified companies, a no-entertainment, no-recreation, no-gift stance as well as guidelines for evaluating and demonstrating products and healthcare professional training. Compliance officer contacts for 113 companies are listed. (<http://www.advamed.org/MemberPortal/About/code/>)

PhRMA Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals – Effective January 1, 2009, prohibits non-educational premiums, entertainment and dining, and requires participating companies provide training to representatives about applicable regulations, laws and codes of conduct. The 42 companies participating as of February, 2009 are listed on the PhRMA web site. (http://www.phrma.org/code_on_interactions_with_healthcare_professionals/)

Commonly Required Documentation for Vendor Representatives in Patient Procedural Areas

- Hepatitis B vaccination
- Influenza vaccination
- Tetanus vaccination
- MMR vaccination
- TB test
- Patient Rights, Confidentiality, & HIPAA Training
- Bloodborne Pathogen Safety Training
- OR Orientation/Aseptic Training
- Compliance/Ethics Policy Acknowledgment
- Fire Safety Training
- Electrical Safety Training
- Product/Service Competency