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### NCASCA Member Resources:

Sign on to NC-ASCA.org with your username:  
**canderson**

Is your center information incorrect? Email [crystal@nc-asca.org](mailto:crystal@nc-asca.org) to submit changes.

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### 2018 NCASCA Board

#### President

Kelli Collins  
Surgical Care Affiliates

#### Treasurer

Sean Rambo  
Compass Surgical Partners

Robert Bashore

## President's Letter

*By Kelli Collins, NCASCA President*

The attendance and participation at the November meeting was outstanding. I want to thank each of you for your involvement and participation. We look to plan more meetings like this where industry experts speak to members on a variety of hot topics. Please feel free to provide input for future meetings by emailing [crystal@nc-asca.org](mailto:crystal@nc-asca.org).

Our top focuses continue to be around legal and lobbying, as we work to keep abreast on all items related to CON and stand firm on our Workers' Compensation position of improving access and maintaining high quality outpatient care for North Carolina's injured workers.

I am thankful for our state association and the ongoing role it will play in the ever changing face of healthcare in North Carolina. I look forward to seeing what our association can accomplish as we move forward.

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## Legislative Update

*By Dick Carlton, NCASCA Lobbyist*

NCASCA is gearing up for the 2018 Legislative Short Session that is scheduled to begin May 16th. We are anticipating the return of a number of key issues that will affect surgery centers. Chief among these are workers' compensation rate reform and billing transparency. We also expect a bill regulating surgical techs in ASCs to reappear.

NCASCA was active on all these topics in the 2017 Session and 100% successful in keeping harmful legislation from passing. We will continue to be vigilant in 2018 thanks to your

Gateway Surgery Center

Cory Hess  
Surgical Care Affiliates

Beth Kirby  
Union West Surgery Center

Jamie Ridout  
Capital City Surgery Center

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### Contact NCASCA

[crystal@nc-asca.org](mailto:crystal@nc-asca.org)  
Phone 888.526.9450 [www.nc-  
asca.org](http://www.nc-asca.org)

support of NCASCA through membership.

To boost our strength in the General Assembly, NCASCA has started a political action committee named NC Ambulatory Surgical Center Association PAC. This committee will raise funds to help in the election of candidates that are favorable toward North Carolina's 120 ASCs. Please watch for more information on this exciting new endeavor.

Finally, a shortened legislative session means more time back home for legislators. NCASCA is ready to help you plan a legislator visit at your surgery center. If you have ever considered doing this, but didn't feel prepared- the time is now. If you haven't considered this before, but are willing- we know how to make this easy and painless. Please contact the office at 888.526.9450 to discuss.

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## Q & A: CLIA Waivers

*By Sandra Jones of Ambulatory Strategies Inc. [sjones@aboutasc.com](mailto:sjones@aboutasc.com)*

**Question:** *We heard another surgery center was cited by state inspectors for not cleaning their Glucometer correctly between patients. Our staff has different opinions of what is required. Someone suggested we use a particular cleaning wipe and someone else suggested alcohol wipes. What should we use?*

**Answer:**

First, let's review what CLIA waiver means. CLIA stands for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments, which were passed by the federal government in 1988. This legislation was enacted to assure that testing is performed by licensed laboratories that are required to meet standards for calibration of the testing equipment, proper handling of specimens, and training of staff. If a laboratory testing device is complicated, requiring specialty expertise to produce accurate test results, the device would not be approved to be used under a CLIA waiver and, instead, would be used in a laboratory that has a CLIA license. CLIA allows for certain tests to be waived from laboratory license requirements. This Certificate of Exemption for clinical laboratory licensure is called a CLIA Waiver.

A health care provider or facility that wants to perform

laboratory tests under a CLIA waiver must make application for a Certificate of Exemption from CLIA and select a device approved by the FDA to be used outside of a licensed laboratory. The device manufacturer must receive FDA approval for the device to be CLIA waived.

[Click here](#) to read Sandra's full article.

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## Society News

### **NCASCA President Appointed to State Health Coordinating Council.**

Congratulations to NCASCA President Kelli Collins! North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper appointed Surgical Care Affiliates' Kelli to the State Health Coordinating Council as its large business representative.

The SHCC oversees the state's medical facilities plan and helps determine need. As you may know, Kelli is one of SCA's vice president of operations. She brings to the Council more than 12 years of experience as an operations leader. Between her tenure as a nurse and her time at SCA, she has almost 30 years of health care experience.

### **NCASCA June Lunch & Learn in Raleigh!**

Join NCASCA for a great day of spreading the word about ASCs and exploring the intriguing world of North Carolina politics. NCASCA will meet on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 12:30pm to enjoy lunch and a legislative update by NCASCA lobbyist, Dick Carlton. Members will then be expertly briefed on what and how to best communicate with legislators and carefully escorted by our knowledgeable legislative staff around the capitol. Legislative visits will conclude at 4 pm.

More information will be emailed to members in the coming weeks!

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## Heard Around the Country

### **Deadlines from Quality Reporting Center**

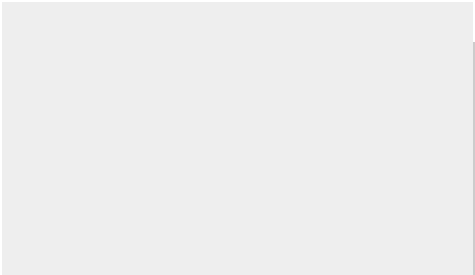
Quality Reporting Center has a couple of dates you should

put on your calendar.

- May 15 – The tool on QualityNet used for entering data for ASC-9 and ASC-10 opened on January 2, 2018. You can now enter your facility's endoscopy measure data for 2017 encounters to fulfill ASC Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program requirements. The updated ASCQR Reference Checklist summarizes these requirements for you. The tool closes on the May 15 deadline.  
*\*May 15 is a deadline for other data reporting programs, too, so get your data in early to avoid any potential technical difficulties.*
- April 1 – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin mailing beneficiaries new Medicare cards with new Medicare Beneficiary Identifiers (MBIs). The new MBIs will be used for billing, eligibility status, and claim status after a transition period. Your facility will need to be ready to accept MBIs on April 1. CMS has a webpage, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/index.html> and an ombudsman at [NMCProviderQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NMCProviderQuestions@cms.hhs.gov) to assist providers with the transition.
- April 14 – All currently enrolled NHSN Facility Administrators and Primary contacts received an email on January 30, 2018, from NHSN informing them that the Consent is available for their review and acceptance. The updated Consent form must be signed by your ASC's Primary Contact or Facility Administrator by April 14 to ensure continued access to the NHSN and to the data entry tool for the influenza vaccination measure (ASC-8). Here are some FAQs about the form, and you can email the NHSN at [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov) with the subject line "NHSN Reconsent" for more information.

### **USA Today and Kaiser Health News Story**

Surgery Centers across the country were shocked by the USA Today and Kaiser Health News released. The unbalanced investigative report eschews facts and telling both sides of the story in favor of an overwhelming emotional appeal of sympathy for patients who have died following treatment in an ambulatory surgery center. The sub-theme follows; that those patients would somehow have been better off having their care in hospitals.



NCASCA is working with the national association to make sure that members have access to a reasoned response to the article's findings that will help your staff educate concerned patients or members of the media. [Click here](#) for talking points developed by ASCA specifically in response to the investigative report. [Click here to view the original article.](#)