



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

November 9, 2011

ASF Facility Name
Facility Address
Facility City, State, Zip

Dear ASF Operators,

The Ambulatory Surgical Facilities (ASF) Program promotes public safety by inspecting and licensing outpatient surgical facilities.

The program sets the standards for construction and operation of such facilities in Washington State. The Department of Health is responsible for protecting the public's health by assuring a safe and healthy environment for all ASF patients.

Fee Increase

We are proposing an increase in licensing fees effective May 19, 2012.

- We have set a stakeholder meeting on the proposed fee increase for 9:30 a.m. on November 22, 2011, at our Point Plaza East building in Tumwater.
- You can find maps and driving directions below.
- We will also hold a public hearing in March 2012.

The fee increase is necessary to fully fund the program. Initially we underestimated the amount of work, time, and complexity necessary to inspect the facilities, and the cost to operate the program. We know:

- The ASFs must be inspected every 18 months. That is approximately 600 inspections in a three-year period.
- The survey process takes longer than we originally expected. It now includes the new step of following a patient through their entire surgical procedure.
- During the process we found a high rate of ASFs having many health and safety issues. These include non-compliance with the physical environment, and unclean storage areas.
- Many facilities have issues around infection control processes and quality of care.

The 2011 Legislature authorized a fee increase to support the operation of the ASF program. We conducted a fee study to decide the correct fee amount to propose. With the study we prepared a more accurate projection of costs to support the program.

To fully staff the program we estimate a need for 11.53 FTEs and a fee of \$14,780 every three years. This comes to \$4,927 per year.

We know this would be an extreme increase. Instead, we are proposing to use a phase-in model. We will begin with 8.2 FTEs with a fee of \$10,080 every three years. This comes to \$3,360 per year. As we gain more experience during the first phase, we will continue to evaluate for survey efficiencies.

Revised Definition of ASF

The 2011 Legislature passed HB 1575 modifying the current ASF licensing law. It expands which facilities to license as an ASF. This is effective January 1, 2012. As revised, an ASF is a facility which:

- Is a distinct business entity; and
- Operates for the primary purpose of providing specialty or multi-specialty outpatient surgical services.

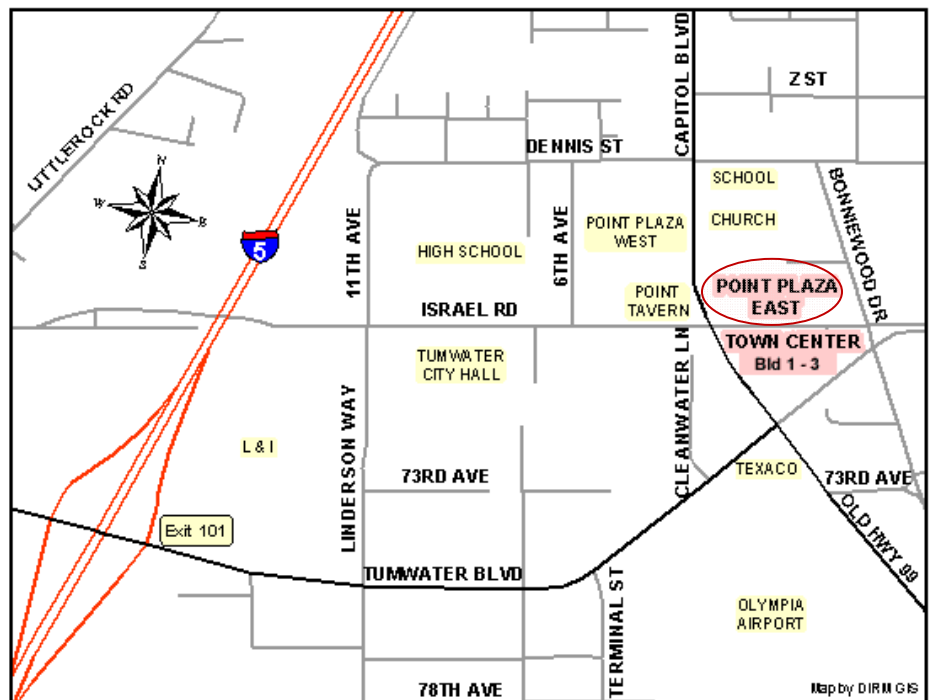
For more information or to view our FAQs, please visit our Web site at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/FSL/AmbulSurgFac/Default.htm>

Sincerely,

Debra Fisher, Program Manager
Ambulatory Surgical Facilities
debra.fisher@doh.wa.gov
360-236-2942

Meeting Location:
Department of Health
Point Plaza East
310 Israel Road SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
Phone: (360) 236-2878



Traveling south on I-5:

1. Take I-5 South to Exit 101 (Not Highway 101 - Ocean Beaches)
2. Turn **left** at stop light onto Tumwater Blvd.
3. Go to second light, turn **left** on Capital Blvd
4. Move to right lane, turn **right** on Israel Road
5. After the US Postal Office, Point Plaza will be on your left.

Traveling north on I-5:

1. Take I-5 North to Exit 101 (Stay in right hand lane)
2. Turn **right** at stop sign, onto Tumwater Blvd.
3. Go to second light, turn **left** on Capital Blvd
4. Move to right lane, turn **right** on Israel Road
5. After the US Postal Office, Point Plaza will be on your left.