



June 30, 2021

## Personal Protective Equipment, Screening and Visitation in CMS-certified Outpatient Settings (Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Outpatient Physical Therapy/Speech Pathology, Rural Health Clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers):

### Authority:

- [Guidance for use of Certain Industrial Respirators by Health Care Personnel \(QSO-20-17-ALL\)](#)
- [Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Outpatient Settings: FAQs and Considerations \(QSO-20-22-ASC, CORF, CMHC, OPT, RHC/FQHCs\)](#)

**Applicability:** This guidance applies to Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs), Outpatient Physical Therapy/Speech Pathology (OPT/SP), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

### I. Personal Protective Equipment

Facilities subject to this guidance shall adopt and enforce policies and procedures that align with the CMS requirement that certified facilities to implement recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC continues to recommend use of Personal Protective Equipment for healthcare personnel, patients and visitors in healthcare settings. The CDC definition of healthcare settings includes the CMS-certified outpatient settings. CMS guidance that incorporates CDC recommendations incorporates those recommendations into CMS infection control requirements.

### II. Screening

Facilities subject to this guidance shall adopt and enforce policies and procedures that require the screening of all individuals including but not limited to all facility staff, health care personnel, and patients before entry. Screening policies and procedures must comply with the [CMS Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) by in Outpatient Settings: FAQs and Considerations](#).

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