



One Commerce Plaza,
Suite 402
Albany, NY 12210
Phone: 518-465-7330
Fax: 518-465-0273

Oversight Increased for Office-Based Surgery

ALBANY, NY – July 18th 2007 – Governor Spitzer has just signed into law legislation (S.6052-A Hannon/A.7948-A Gottfried) to provide much needed oversight to anesthesia procedures performed in office-based settings.

The legislation, passed unanimously by both houses of the Legislature in late June, will give the Commissioner of Health the authority to oversee surgical procedures that use moderate or deep sedation or general anesthesia in any setting other than a hospital, excluding minor procedures, which require minimal sedation. All physicians that provide these surgeries must be accredited by an approved nationally recognized accrediting agency.

Additionally, all adverse events including unplanned hospital transfers, unscheduled hospital admission within 72 hours, death within 30 days after the procedure, and any other serious life-threatening events must be reported to the Department of Health within one business day (click here for a link to the text of the bill <http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A7948>)

Increasing oversight for office-based surgery has been a chief priority for Weingarten, Reid & McNally and the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists. “Anesthesia is a highly specialized medical procedure regardless of the site of delivery. When administering anesthesia, the slightest error could prove fatal,” said Dr. Scott Groudine, Director of Clinical Research for the Albany Medical College Department of Anesthesiology. “The enactment of this legislation will save the lives of dozens of New Yorkers every year and greatly increase patient safety in all surgical environments throughout the State.”

The legislation is based on recommendations made by the Committee on Quality Assurance in Office-Based Surgery, established in 1997 by the New York State Public Health Council. The 18-member committee consisted of consumer advocates and medical specialists.