

481—49.3(135R,10A) Inspections.

49.3(1) *Frequency.* Inspections may be initiated because of a complaint or other information received by the department or upon referral from other agencies. The department will perform inspections at the same frequency and utilize any priority tier structure for survey and certification activities required for inspections of Medicare-certified ambulatory surgical centers. The department will recognize, in lieu of its own licensure inspection, the comparable inspection and findings of a Medicare survey or an accrediting organization survey from an accrediting organization approved by CMS for federal certification. An ambulatory surgical center utilizing an accrediting organization survey to satisfy the requirements of this subrule shall submit an accreditation certificate to the department within 30 days of completion of each accrediting organization survey.

49.3(2) *Access to records.* An inspector with the department may enter an ambulatory surgical center without a warrant and may examine and copy all records and items pertaining to the inspection unless the record or item is protected by some other legal privilege.

49.3(3) *Evaluation of allegations and referral to other agencies.* If an inspection is initiated, the department will evaluate the allegations to determine whether the allegations should also be referred to other local, state, or federal agencies. If the department believes a criminal or regulatory violation has occurred or is occurring, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement or regulatory agencies.

49.3(4) *Final findings.* The department will notify the ambulatory surgical center and any complainant, in writing, of the final findings of an inspection.

49.3(5) *Inspector conflict of interest.* An employee of the department will be excluded from participating in the inspection of an ambulatory surgical facility described by Iowa Code section 135R.5(3).
[ARC 7886C, IAB 5/1/24, effective 6/5/24]