

November 1, 2010

[REDACTED]
Allegheny Womens Center
121 North Highland Street, Suite 333
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

Dear [REDACTED]

On September 28, 2010, an onsite survey was conducted at Allegheny Womens Center. The survey findings revealed that the clinic failed to provide services in accordance with 28 Pa. Code Chapter 29, Subchapter D, Ambulatory Gynecological Surgery in Hospitals and Clinics. Specifically, the clinic did not meet the following requirements:

29.33 (1) each medical facility shall have readily available equipment and drugs necessary for resuscitation. If local anesthesia is utilized to perform an abortion in a medical facility during the first trimester, then the following equipment shall be ready to use for resuscitation purposes:.....(iii) Assorted size airways and endotracheal tubes(vi)Intravenous fluids including blood volume expanders

The onsite survey found that resuscitative equipment was not readily available. Findings include:

Procedure room #2: Two (2) endotracheal tubes with no expiration date on package; a monitor to display heart rate and breathing patterns that wasn't checked for proper function and possible electrical leakage; 1(one) vial marked for an unknown patient that was no longer there; 8 needles that were expired o 7/08; 2 (two) Penn rose drains that expired on 1/10 and 10/09; 7 (seven) sterile pouches that were expired on 1/10; there was no laryngoscope or cut down tray available; Missing 2 Lactated Ringers 1000 cc bags for blood volume replacement; The emergency cart, located in procedure room #2 and was not readily available for use; No available portable oxygen in the event of an emergency. Missing were reversal drugs for medications being given for twilight sleep in case of an emergency.

There were various blood tubes that were expired for use for lab specimens. Facility did not perform Hematocrit or Hemoglobin as per regulations.

Expired items were found mixed with current items with no assurance that at the time of an emergency an appropriate current item, and not an expired item, would be used. There were various blood tubes that were expired. Upon questioning, the Administrator acknowledged that all these items were expired.

The facility must develop and implement a plan to correct this issue. Please submit your written plan of correction to the Department, along with evidence indicating the plan was implemented, within 10 days of the receipt of this letter. Thank you and your staff for your cooperation throughout the onsite investigation.

Please respond with your corrective action within 10 days of the receipt of this letter.

Respectfully,

Allegheny Women's Center
121 North Highland Ave. Suite 333
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 362-2920

[REDACTED]
PA Department of Health
Fax (717) 772-0232

January 22, 2011

Dear [REDACTED]:

This letter is in response to your letter which was dated November 1, 2010, but was received yesterday regarding the onsite survey performed September 28, 2010.

Most of the deficiencies that were noted in this letter were corrected immediately and viewed by [REDACTED] on September 29, 2010.

All expired items in the clinic were immediately removed. Most of these items were in a closet that is no longer used and therefore were repeatedly overlooked by staff during routine inventory inspection. This has been addressed with the staff. During the October staff meeting, one staff member has been designated as the inventory control monitor. Her duties include monthly checks of all closets and drawers of every room in the office to ensure all expired equipment or medications are properly disposed of and re-ordered if necessary.

As witnessed by [REDACTED] the emergency cart was immediately moved to a more central location so that it can be more readily available. Portable oxygen, out down tray, laryngoscope, lactated ringers for blood volume replacement, and reversal drugs were immediately added to emergency cart and witnessed by [REDACTED]

Testing for Hemoglobin has been implemented using the Hemocue testing equipment. We have contracted with a local company, to perform maintenance and inspection of all equipment for electrical leakage.

If further information is needed, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to provide you with any further documentation that is required.

We take pride in providing our clients with the highest quality care we can provide, and we thank you for the opportunity to correct these issues so that we can continue helping women in need of our services.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]