

DHMH Seeks Public Comment on Regulation of Cosmetic Surgery Procedures

The Maryland Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DHMH) is seeking informal public comment as it prepares to adopt regulations on the oversight of cosmetic surgery procedures in Maryland.

In 2012, three Maryland residents became seriously ill during an outbreak of Group A Streptococcus at a cosmetic surgical facility in Baltimore County. One person died. This episode brought to light gaps in the oversight of surgical procedures in Maryland. With support from DHMH, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation in the 2013 session providing for stricter oversight of cosmetic surgery procedures. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of DHMH to adopt regulations for certain higher risk cosmetic surgical procedures. The new law can be found online [here](http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/Chapters_noln/CH_398_hb1009t.pdf):
(http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/Chapters_noln/CH_398_hb1009t.pdf)

To assist in the development of these proposed regulations, DHMH initially solicited public input on several key questions involving the scope of the cosmetic procedures to be covered by the regulations and the licensing standards to be used. The questions were to be considered in light of the safety or risks of the procedure, relevant provider education and training, and the setting in which the procedure is performed.

After considering public and stakeholder input on the questions it posed, DHMH drafted proposed regulations that provide for the deeming of accredited cosmetic surgical facilities and authorize the investigation of complaints at these facilities. The regulations also include procedures for emergency hearings, suspensions, and revocations.

DHMH welcomes informal public comments on the [proposed regulations](#) and is particularly interested in comments on the scope of the cosmetic surgery procedures covered in the regulations and the appropriate licensing standards. Comments will be accepted through November 21, 2013 by Frank Johnson, Director, Office of Policy and Administration, Office of Health Care Quality. Please submit comments via email to frank.johnson@maryland.gov or via postal mail to Frank Johnson, DHMH Office of Health Care Quality, Spring Grove Hospital Center, Bland Bryant Building, 55 Wade Avenue, Catonsville, MD 21228.