ASORN Ask an Expert Terms of Use

In order to participate in Ask an Expert, you are asked to read and accept the terms of this disclaimer and the Guidelines.

The American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses provides on-line information and services on the Internet as a benefit to its members and the public and to further its educational mission. Participants in ASORN Ask an Expert are encouraged to use this resource for the free and uncensored exchange of ideas, information, critiques, and commentary.

1. ASORN, ANY CONTRIBUTORS AND THEIR AFFILIATES DO NOT MAKE ANY WARRANTIES, AS TO THE ACCURACY, ADEQUACY OR COMPLETENESS OF ANY MATERIAL PRESENTED HERE, WHICH IS PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" BASIS. ASORN AND ITS CONTRIBUTORS ARE NOT LIABLE TO ANYONE FOR ANY: a) ERRORS, INACCURACIES, OR OMISSIONS; b) DAMAGES OR INJURY TO PERSON OR PROPERTY FROM ANY USE OF IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED HERE; AND/OR c) ANY DAMAGES INCURRED IF MATERIAL ON THIS SITE OR ON ANY SITE LINKED FROM THIS SITE INFECTS OR CONTAMINATES A USER'S SYSTEM.

2. ASORN Ask an Expert is not intended to replace consultation with an appropriate ophthalmic professional. ASORN cannot provide medical advice, answer specific medical questions, or refer anyone to a particular ophthalmologist.

3. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed and statements made by various authors reflect the author's observations or opinions and do not imply endorsement by ASORN.

4. ASORN does not exert editorial control over and has not participated in the development of other Internet Web sites. ASORN does not support, endorse, or hold any responsibility for hyperlink pointers, their Web site content, any of their expressed views, any services they offer or hyperlinks they mention. ASORN does not endorse any products or companies mentioned.

The nature of Ask an Expert is such that several words of caution and specific rules (The Guidelines) are necessary to protect your interests and those of your fellow ASORN contributors:

Guidelines

1. Discussions regarding fees, acceptable reimbursement levels, or plans for collective economic actions (e.g., joint negotiations with or boycotts of third party payors or managed care plans, or decisions not to deal with particular types of providers) raise the risk of antitrust investigation and liability. This risk exists whether those discussions take place in a face-to-face meeting, by written correspondence, or through electronic communication.

In fact, the risk is even greater for ASORN Ask an Expert discussions, since by definition a written record is made of the communication. Because this is an ASORN service, such discussions could not only put you at risk for antitrust liability, they might implicate ASORN
as well. Accordingly, you must refrain from any discussions about (a) what is an appropriate amount to charge for a particular procedure, (b) whether particular reimbursement amounts are sufficient or insufficient, or collective actions that might be taken if reimbursements are deemed to be insufficient, and (c) whether ophthalmologists should do business with other types of providers for economic reasons (e.g., optometrists who charge excessive co-management fees). One exception to this caution is that discussions about Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement policies are generally permissible as long as they do not lead to anticompetitive actions (e.g., a collective agreement not to treat Medicare or Medicaid patients).

3. Violating antitrust regulations, libeling others, infringing copyrights, selling, and marketing are not permissible. ASORN does not actively monitor ASORN Ask an Expert correspondence for inappropriate content and does not on its own undertake editorial control of correspondence. However, in the event that any inappropriate correspondence is brought to ASORN’s attention, the Society will take appropriate action.

4. Although ASORN attempts to maintain the security of ASORN Ask an Expert responses by limiting participation to select ASORN members and staff, participants should not assume that ASORN Ask and Expert discussions are confidential or privileged. To the contrary, comments made in ASORN Ask an Expert communications could be forwarded to non-participants either by electronic or hard copy transmission. Moreover, electronic communications are generally discoverable in court proceedings. This means that a plaintiff in a malpractice lawsuit might seek to discover ASORN Ask an Expert communications involving a particular defendant physician or a subject of relevance to the lawsuit. Such discovery efforts may well be successful. Therefore, participants should use discretion in their communications, particularly with respect to statements about their treatment of or contacts with a specific patient or patients, or about the level of one’s technical skills, that might later be used against you (or ASORN members) if litigation were ever to ensue. Never mention a patient by name or give enough information that the patient’s identity is revealed.

5. Participants should recognize that ASORN Ask an Expert discussions are tantamount to participating in a public meeting. Disparaging comments about the skills or techniques of other ASORN members or other health care practitioners are no more appropriate in one context than the other. This caution is intended both to encourage the professional decorum of ASORN Ask an expert communications and to reduce potential liability risks for participants and ASORN.

6. ASORN reserves the right to suspend or terminate communications with individuals who violate any of these rules or Guidelines.

By participating in the ASORN Ask an Expert you are acknowledging that you have read the disclaimer and that you agree to accept the Guidelines.