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VMG HEALTH

Staying Ahead of the Surveyor: Key Findings and Focus Areas for 2026

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Today's **Speaker:**



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VMG Health, ASC Consulting

ASC de novo development
ASC operational performance
Regulatory compliance
Survey preparation
Staff training
Infection Control
Medicare Certification

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SURVEYORS

An overview of most frequently cited deficiencies from these organizations.

CMS *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services*

ACCREDITING ORGANIZATIONS

JC *Joint Commission*

AAAHC *Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care*

QUAD A *American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities*

ACHC *Accreditation Commission for Health Care*

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CMS: Top 5 Most Common Deficiencies in 2026

Focus Area	Standard	Common Findings
Infection Control *Sanitary Environment*	42 CFR 416.51	Dust, SPD Cross Contamination, Corrugated Boxes, Disinfection Gaps
Pharmaceutical Services *Administration of Drugs*	42 CFR 416.48	Unlabeled medications, missing orders, incomplete controlled substance records
Credentialing and Privileges *Reappraisals*	42 CFR 416.45	Overdue reappraisals, missing governing board approval prior to expiration
Environment *Physical Environment*	42 CFR 416.44	Humidity, air pressure, environmental sanitation
Emergency Preparedness	42 CFR 416.54	Missing drills, missing post-drill evaluation, missing staff training records

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Joint Commission: Top 5 Most Common Deficiencies

Focus Area	Standard	Common Findings
Infection Prevention & Control	IC 02.02.01	MIFU noncompliance, HLD Testing gaps, sterile storage
Environment of Care	EC 02.06.01 EC 02.03.05	Blocked egress, fire & smoke barrier penetrations, generator records
National Patient Safety Goal	NPSG 03.04.01	Unlabeled syringes and medication containers
Medication Management	MM.01.02.01 EP 2	Confused Drug Names
Waived Testing	WT.03.01.01 EP 5	Waived testing competencies

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AAAHC: Common Survey Deficiencies

Focus Area	Standard	Common Findings
Infection Prevention & Control	**IPC.170, IPC.100, IPC.130**	MIFU noncompliance, Missing/Incomplete BI logs, lack of annual IC Risk Assessment approved by the Governing body
Medication Management	**MED.190, MED.170 MED.140, MED.210**	Unlabeled syringes, missing open dates on MDV, Unsecured medications
Emergency Management	**EMG.170**	Missing drills, incomplete drill evaluations, failure to document corrective actions
Quality Improvement	**QUA.240, QUA.210**	Submitting data collection instead of QI Study, failing to re-measure a QI study
Facilities, Equipment & Safety	**FAC.110, FAC.140, FAC.150, FAC.240, SAF.110**	Missing generator testing, missing biomed stickers, blocked exits

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QUAD A: Common 2026 Survey Deficiencies

Focus Area	Standard	Common Findings
Infection Control & Sterilization	7-D-5	Sterilization monitoring, Deviating from MIFU, storage spaces
Medication Management	6-D-5	Labeling, dating, controlled substance accountability
Clinical Records	8-B-9	Assessments, documentation, discharge instructions
Personnel & Competency	8-K-8	Qualifications, competencies, emergency training
Life Safety & Environment	2-B-1	Maintenance, safe storage, life safety records

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ACHC: Top 5 Common Deficiencies

Focus Area	Standard	Common Findings
Medical Records	**08.00.03 (63%)**	Missing anesthesia documentation, assessments, discharge records
Credentialing	**03.01.02 (57%)**	Verifications, competencies, governing body approvals
Sanitary Environment	**05.00.06 (43%)**	Dust, damaged surfaces, cleaning and storage
Contracted Services	**01.02.01 (39%)**	Contract evaluations, QAPI, governing body review
Temperature, Humidity & Airflow	**15.01.02 (35%)**	Monitoring, pressures, corrective action

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Which area needs the most attention at your ASC?

Common Deficiency	CMS	Joint Commission	AAAHC	QUAD A	ACHC
Infection Prevention	★	★	★	★	★
Medication Management	★	★	★	★	
Credentialing	★				★
Environment Life Safety	★	★	★	★	★
Emergency Preparedness & Drills	★		★		
Clinical Records				★	★

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Additional questions?
Would you like to learn more?

Let's dive deeper. Contact us today!

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CONTACT US:

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Thank you

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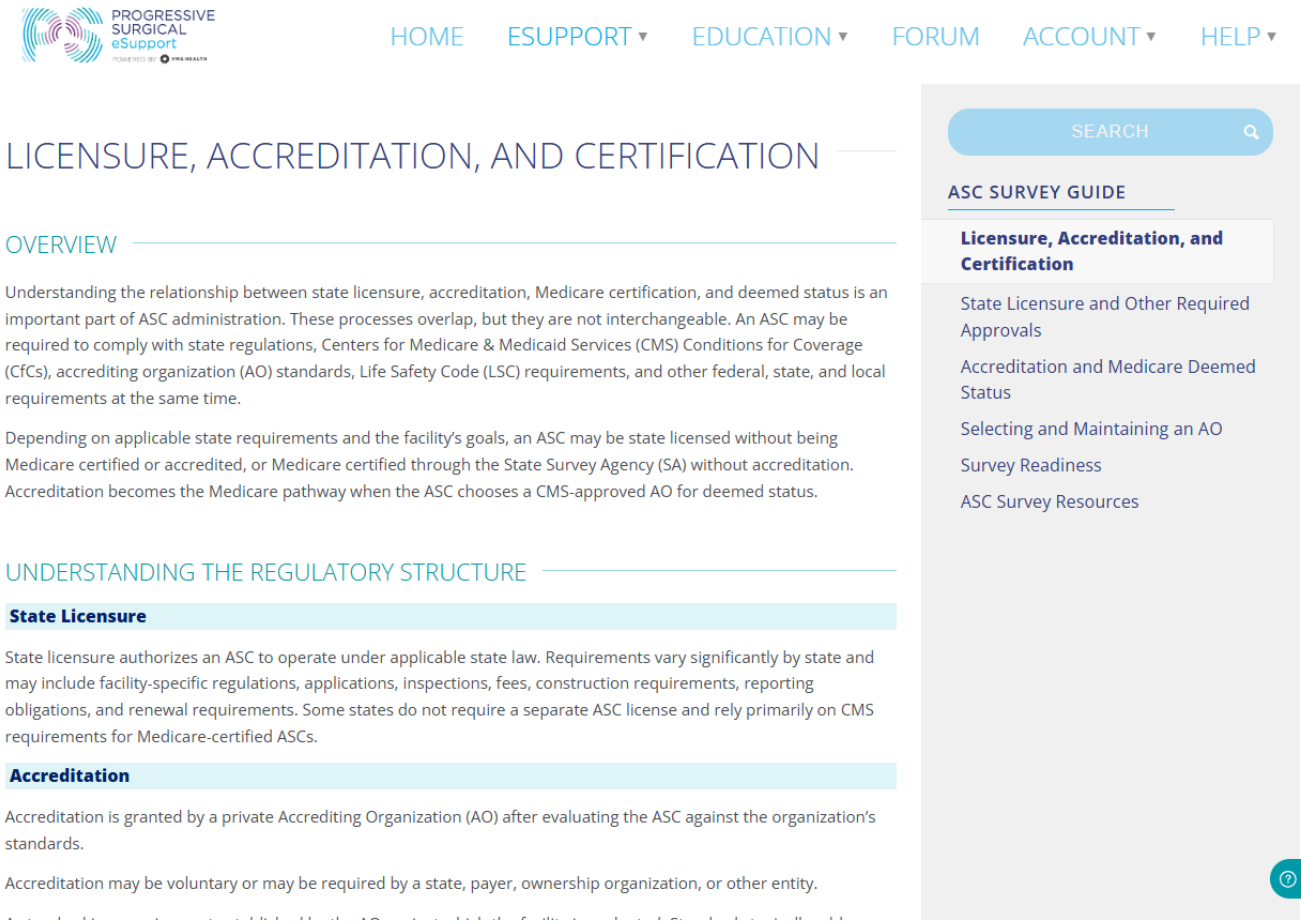
eSupport > ASC Survey Guide

Comprehensive guide to navigating ASC Surveys





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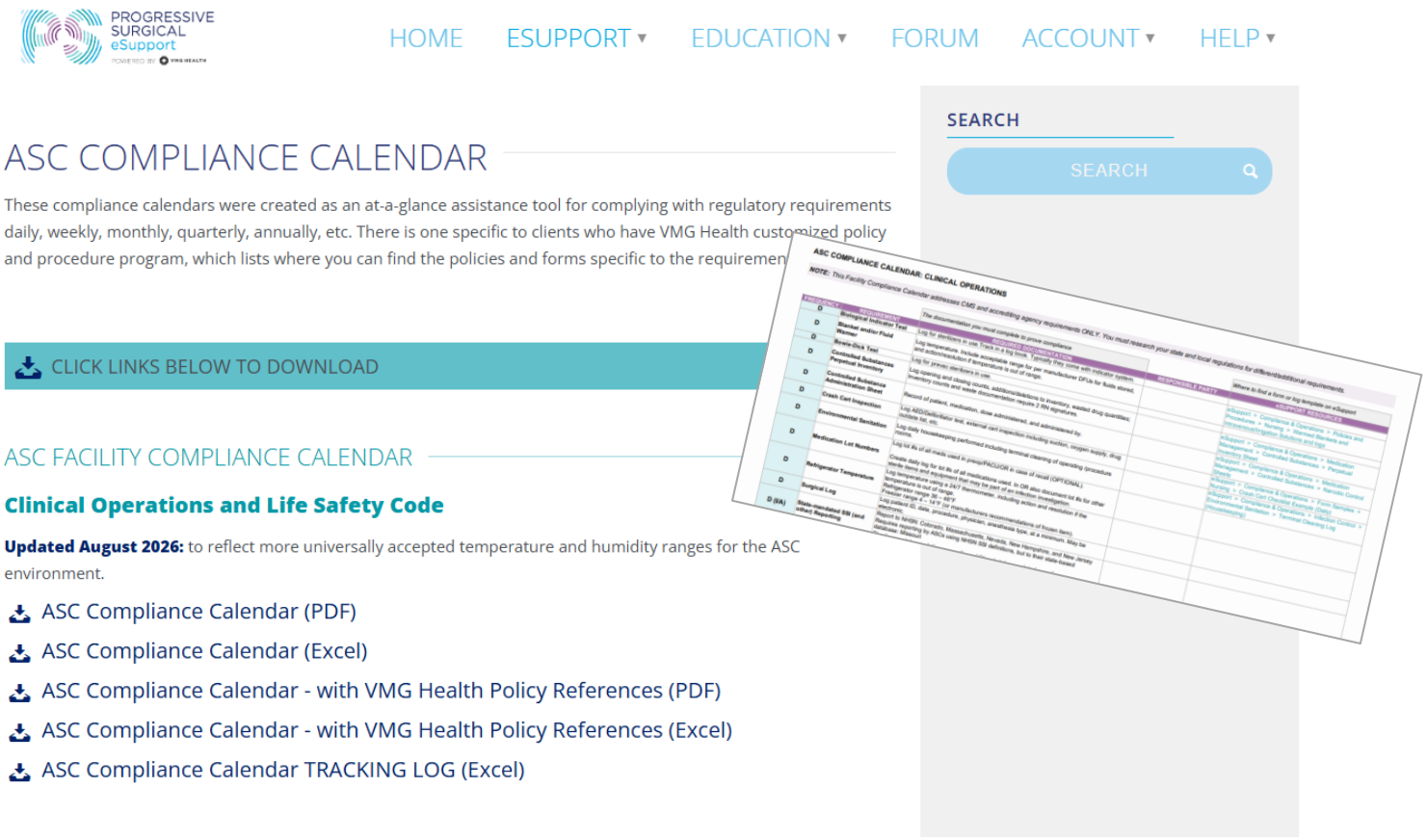
eSupport > Compliance Calendar

ASC Compliance Calendar (including Life Safety)





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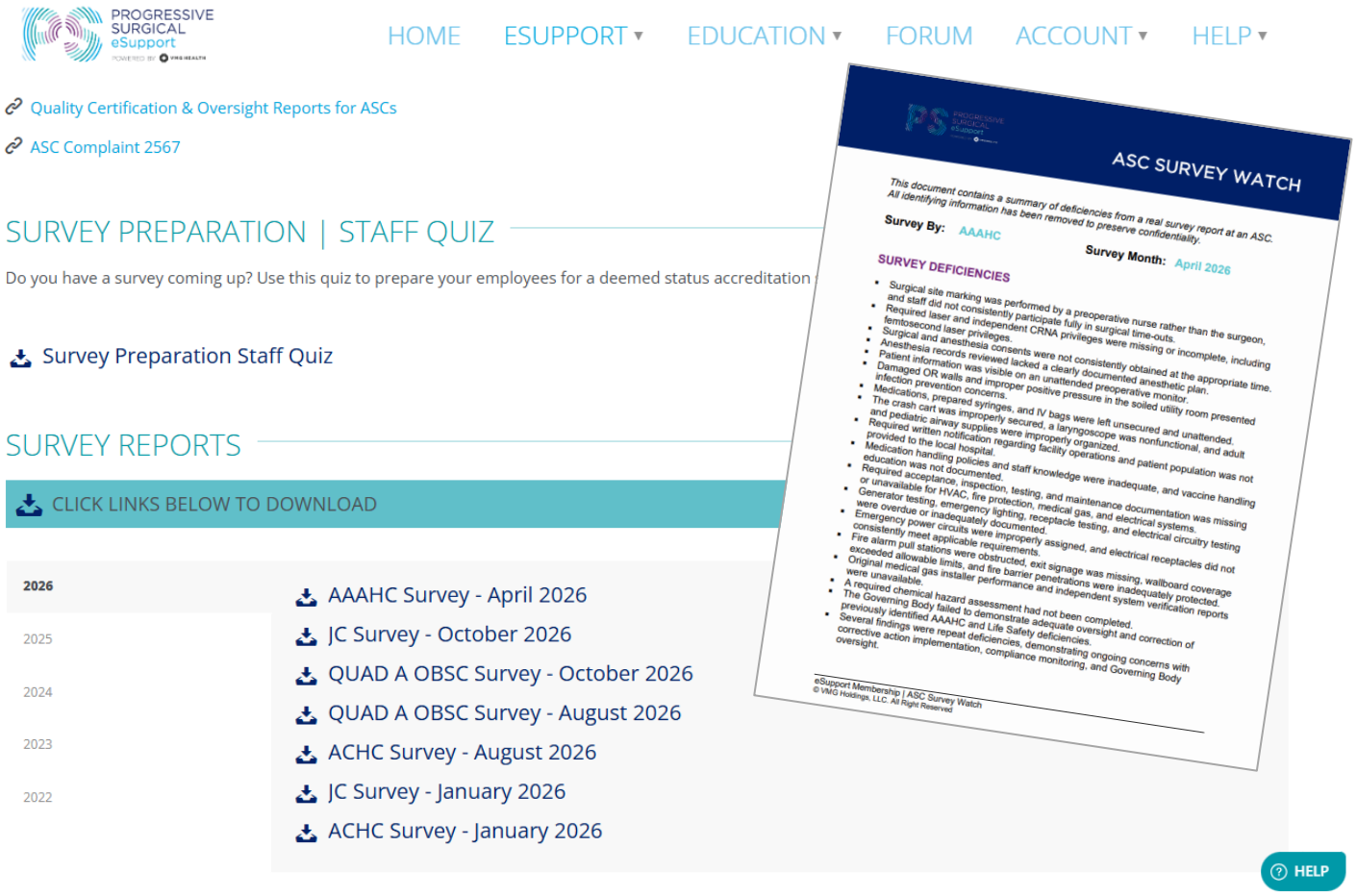
eSupport > Survey Watch



***REAL** survey reports from various regulatory surveys in 2026*

Survey Preparation Staff Quiz



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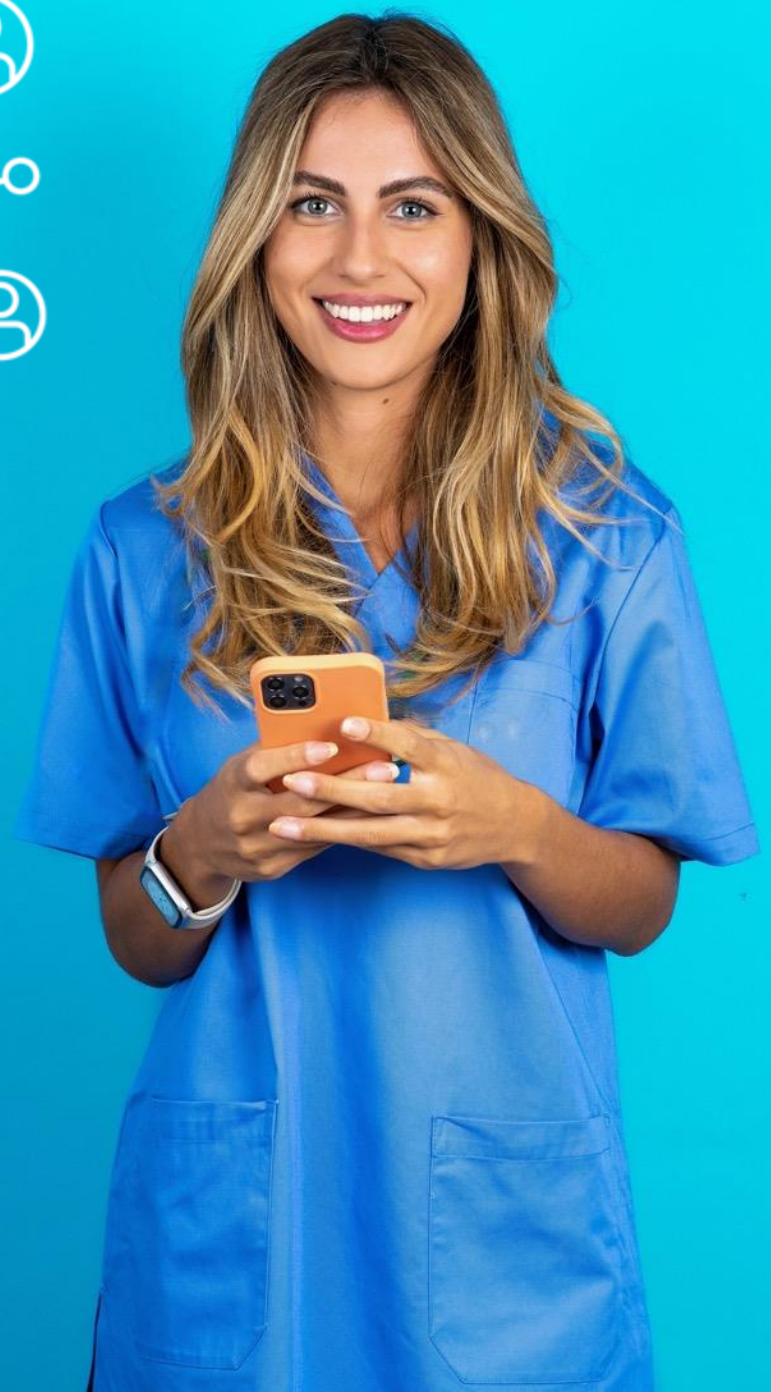
RUNNING AN ASC CAN BE less OVERWHELMING



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Upcoming Webinars

DATE		CE	WEBINAR TOPIC	SPEAKER
DEC 18	60	RN, CASC	**A Guide to ASC Risk Assessments**	**Debra Stinchcomb, MBA, BSN, RN, CASC** *VMG Health*
JAN 11	20		**2027 ASC Quality Reporting Update**	**Gina Throneberry, RN, MBA, CASC, CNOR** *ASC Association*

Registration opens each month on vmghealth.com


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2027
WEBINAR CALENDAR
Coming Soon!