

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What are the eligibility criteria for the ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program?

The eligibility criteria for the program for **new and renewing** units are as follows:

1. Proof of successful and current accreditation by a recognized accrediting body. Current accreditation must extend for six months beyond the granting date, and units must remain accredited throughout the duration of the three-year recognition.
  2. ASGE Membership of at least 50% of the endoscopists practicing within the unit. An additional discount for the program is available or units with 100% participation.
  3. Completion of the ASGE Quality Course, *Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit*, by a representative of the unit within one year of the program application. Units are encouraged to send both a physician and a non-physician manager to the course.
  4. Attestation that the following guidelines are adopted as unit policy:
    - Multi-society guidelines on granting of privileges to perform endoscopic procedures: Methods of Granting Hospital Privileges to Perform Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
    - Multi-Society Guideline for Reprocessing Flexible Gastrointestinal Endoscopes-2011
    - CDC Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings 2007
  5. Attestation that all pertinent staff members have completed competency assessments for endoscope reprocessing, sterile medication administration and infection prevention in the endoscopy unit within the prior year.
  6. A. Demonstration that unit policies have been developed and adopted for continuous or intermittent assessment of the following Quality Measures, with associated performance targets for selected measures:
    - Patient assessment for procedural risk before sedated procedures - employing ASA score, Mallampati score or another standardized assessment.
    - Quality of preparation during colonoscopy, employing standardized criteria.
    - Cecal intubation rate by endoscopist, during colonoscopy.
    - Adenoma detection rates by endoscopist, during colonoscopy.
    - Adverse event tracking, by major classes and severity, for the unit as a whole.
    - Use of Patient Satisfaction surveys by the unit as a whole.
  - B. Submission of one cycle of data pertaining to the above outcomes measures.
  - C. Demonstration that improvement plans have been formulated for suboptimal performance on selected Quality Measures.
7. Submission of the application fee(s).

**Renewing Units Only:** In addition to the above criteria, a renewing unit must also submit a summary (200-250 words) of a quality improvement project completed during the previously awarded three-year period.

Download the application today from [www.asge.org/quality/EURP](http://www.asge.org/quality/EURP).

## Frequently Asked Questions

**2. To meet the criterion *proof of successful and current accreditation by a recognized accrediting body* which accreditations does the program recognize?**

The process of accreditation ensures that many varied issues pertinent to the delivery of quality care have been addressed. Endoscopy units must be accredited, generally by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities (AAAASF), or the Joint Commission. Accreditation by the AAAHC and AAAASF tend to be more frequently sought by ambulatory surgery centers and freestanding units, whereas Joint Commission accreditation is more commonly achieved by hospital-based units, but either accrediting organization can be used. Accreditations from other entities *may* be considered. Applicants accredited by an organization other than AAAHC, AAAASF, or Joint Commission should contact the ASGE national office to discuss their accreditation in relation to the Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program.

**3. Can I apply to the program as I am registering to take the *Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit* course?**

Yes! You will even benefit from a discounted course registration rate. Units applying to the program are encouraged to send a physician and a non-physician manager to the course. To meet the eligibility criterion, at least one unit representative must attend the course within a year of applying to the program.

**4. What topics are covered in the *Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit* course?**

Specific presentations deal with:

- the principles of quality and quality metrics
- benchmarking and record keeping
- informed consent and communication
- efficiency
- sedation monitoring
- infection control
- endoscope reprocessing
- safe medication practices
- response to suspected infection
- training and credentialing in new procedures
- accreditation
- design and implementation of a quality assurance program

A highly valued aspect of the course has been the use of roundtable discussions and significant question-and-answer sessions for open discussion and interchange of successful practices among the attendees.

### 5. What are the benefits of earning the Certificate of Recognition from the ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program?

In addition to gaining recognition among healthcare professionals, public and private regulatory bodies and patients as a unit dedicated to quality care, recognition recipients receive the following benefits.

- Recognition for three years with the opportunity to renew
- The ASGE Certificate of Recognition of Quality in Endoscopy for each recognized unit [one 8.5x11 certificate ready-for-framing per unit]
- Public and professional recognition on the ASGE website through the posting of your unit's name on the list of Certificate of Recognition awardees
- Powerful marketing tools to help you promote your recognition
  - Rights to use the "ASGE Recognized Unit" logo on materials such as letterhead, Web sites, banners and endoscopy reports
  - Public relations campaign material templates to support your local media and marketing efforts. The public relations kit includes a press release to announce your achievement as an ASGE-recognized Unit
  - Patient and peer recognition through display of your certificate and the use of the program logo
  - *Ensuring the Safety of Your Endoscopic Procedure* patient brochures
- Complimentary membership in ASGE's Ambulatory Endoscopy Center Special Interest Group (AEC SIG) for the endoscopy unit medical director for the three-year duration of the recognition Note: The medical director must be a member of ASGE for the AEC SIG membership to apply.
- Discounted registration rate for additional unit staff to attend the *Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit* course

### 6. Why was the Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program developed?

The rationale for the Endoscopy Unit Recognition program was two-fold. First, ASGE recognized the need to standardize and promulgate best practices, particularly with regard to infection control, to help its members ensure that the endoscopic services they deliver are the highest in quality and safety. Second, the society also sought to provide a means for gastroenterologists, endoscopists, and the units in which they work to distinguish themselves from lesser-quality services offered in varied environments by many types of practitioners.

### 7. How has the Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program been received?

The response to the ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition program has been outstanding! Launched in 2008, by the end of 2011 the program had over 400 units recognized. Current recipients are anxious to renew their three-year recognitions and new units apply to the program monthly.

**8. I am a recognized unit and my three-year recognition period will expire within the year. What steps do I need to take to continue to be a unit recognized by ASGE's Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program?**

Approximately one year out from your unit's recognition expiration date, the ASGE office will contact your unit initiating the renewal process.

- An email addressed to the medical director listed on the original application will be sent to the unit's contact email address from the original application (likely the practice manager).
- Additionally, a letter will be mailed to the medical director's attention.

Here are a few things to keep in mind and plan for as your unit looks towards renewal:

- Completion of the ASGE course *Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit* by at least one representative of the unit within one year prior to application submission is a requirement of new and renewing program participants. Please visit [www.asge.org/quality/qualitycourse](http://www.asge.org/quality/qualitycourse) to learn about upcoming course dates and locations.
- The program criteria may have been revised since your last application so please review all criteria closely and contact the national office with any questions.
- Renewing units must meet an additional criterion which is submission of a formatted summary of a quality improvement project completed in your unit during the current three-year award period. Additional detail on this criterion can be found within the application.