

## **Preface: Ambulatory Care Services Reports**

In recent years, there has been a striking increase in the number of and types of ambulatory care service providers including, but not limited to, large physician practices, retail clinics, urgent care centers, and freestanding emergency departments. These new ambulatory care providers offer services that were previously provided only in facilities regulated by New York State under Article 28. As a result of these changes in the health care system marketplace, the Public Health and Health Planning Council is analyzing the variety of ambulatory care service arrangements and developing a set of recommendations to normalize public oversight of these practices and licensed facilities.

The attached series of reports are being submitted to the Public Health and Health Planning Council's Health Planning Committee to provide background information to the Committee and inform their deliberations as they consider the ambulatory services spectrum. These papers were prepared by New York State Health Department staff and do not include stakeholder feedback. Stakeholder feedback will be solicited as part of the Committee's deliberations.

Papers related to four sectors of the ambulatory care services spectrum - advanced medical imaging, radiation therapy, urgent care, non-hospital surgery and enhanced physician practices – will be released over the next week in preparation for the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee. Two documents are provided for each of these sectors - a "background" paper that describes related issues and a "policy" paper that lays out options, pros/cons, and other state/federal models. Additional papers on other sectors of the ambulatory care spectrum will be released prior to their discussion at future meetings.

It is important to appreciate that no decisions/prejudgments have been made related to this project. The options discussed in the papers are solely offered for potential consideration and to facilitate discussion. The Council may choose to recommend one or more or none of the options presented, or recommend options not identified in the papers. At the same time, the Council could also choose to eliminate currently required statutes and regulations.