

2026 GULF STATES ASC CONFERENCE

JUNE 17-19, 2026
THE RITZ-CARLTON, NEW ORLEANS

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION BROCHURE



**GULF STATES
ASC CONFERENCE**
presented by ASC Excellence

LET'S MEET!

Join your ASC peers in a casual setting where you can connect and network with other professionals in the ASC industry.

This is your opportunity to step away from the daily pace of your center and spend meaningful time learning, connecting, and recharging alongside peers who understand exactly what you're navigating.



Why Attend?



Relevant, real-world ASC education from some of the nation's leading speakers



Face-to-face time with trusted industry partners



Networking with administrators and clinical leaders from across the Gulf States



Door prizes and engaging exhibitors with the latest products and technology

Join us at the Gulf States ASC Conference this summer for one of the most comprehensive ASC conferences in the South!

This conference is sponsored by the ASC associations from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Keynote Speaker

Heather Lambert, Wellpath

Friday, June 19 - 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Heather is an expert in building positive organizational cultures, with over 20 years of experience helping organizations put people first. She has worked across non-profits, NGOs, government, higher education, and corporate environments, with deep expertise in healthcare, including hospitals, ASCs, and correctional healthcare. A systems thinker and collaborative leader, Heather specializes in developing leaders, improving the employee experience, and strengthening talent processes. She's known for turning complex challenges into practical solutions that create meaningful, lasting change.



SPECIAL EVENT

Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mix and Mingle! Join us for a welcome reception with food and drinks.

Located in the Exhibit Hall and pre-function area, the reception provides attendees an opportunity to greet colleagues while exploring the trade show vendors.



CONFERENCE LOCATION

The Ritz-Carlton, New Orleans

Located at 921 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA, The Ritz-Carlton offers guests a luxurious retreat in the heart of the city. From its premier location on the edge of the French Quarter, the hotel's location provides guests easy access to most of the city's popular and unique attractions. The hotel features a world-class spa, a signature restaurant, impeccable service and exceptional amenities. To make reservations call 1-800-826-8987 and let them know you are with the Gulf States ASC Conference. Make your reservations by **May 18, 2026** to receive the conference rate of \$269, unless the block is full.



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AGENDA

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Attendee Early Registration



5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Networking Reception and Exhibit Hall Opening

Thursday, June 18, 2026



7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Breakfast in Exhibit Hall

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Federal Focus

Bill Prentice, JD, ASCA

This session will review current activities and efforts that impact change for ASCs at the national level. Attendees will also hear about the new rules as well as other issues on the horizon.



9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Refreshment Break/Networking in the Exhibit Hall

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

CMS Survey Prep and Top Violations

Mary Ryan, RN, BSN, MBA, CASC, CAIP, Amblitel

They are here! During this session we will talk about how to be best prepared for a CMS or deemed status survey. We will also walk through some common citations including life safety and actions to help keep those citations at bay.

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

How to Engage in Difficult Conversations in the ASC

Geri Eaves, BSN, RN, CASC, CNOR, MedHQ/Avanza Strategies

This presentation provides healthcare professionals with practical strategies for navigating difficult conversations with patients, families, and colleagues. It outlines why these conversations matter for patient safety, team culture, and regulatory compliance, and explores the factors that make communication challenging in healthcare settings. The content includes core communication principles, a five-step conversation model, effective dialogue tools, de-escalation techniques, and considerations for cultural sensitivity and health literacy.



AGENDA

Thursday, June 18, 2026



12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Buffet Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

BREAKOUT A

Surveying a Sterile Processing Department

Deltra Austin, BS, CHL, CRCST, CST, STERIS

This session will review infection prevention challenges specific to ASCs and identify areas for improvement that focus on decreasing health care infections.

BREAKOUT B

Accounts Receivable Management – Lessons from the Trenches

Leah Ethridge, MHA Surgical Management Associates

This session reviews common and uncommon insurance denials and shares practical strategies to prevent delays through strong documentation, policy review, effective POCs, and proactive relationships with regulators. Real-life examples and peer best practices will provide actionable tools to strengthen business office operations.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Medication Management and Drug Diversion Prevention

Alex Yampolsky, PharmD, MBA, MedServe

Drug diversion is inevitable without safeguards. Learn how diversion occurs in surgery centers, recognize hidden warning signs, and implement practical strategies to protect staff, patients, and reputation.

4:00 p.m.

State Breakouts



AGENDA

Friday, June 19, 2026



7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Keynote: The Invisible Job Description

Heather Lambert, Wellpath

There's a big part of leadership that won't show up in a job description. It's invisible. But today we make it visible. The gap isn't skills — it's the unwritten rules of frontline leadership. What your team needs. The unspoken expectations, assumptions, and dynamics running between you and the people you lead. In this candid, practical presentation, we write the rulebook together.



9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Refreshment Break

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Infection Control Checklist

Tina DiMarino, DNP, MBA, RN, FACHE, CASC, CNOR, Ambulatory Strategies, Inc.

This session highlights what's new in infection control guidance from CMS, APIC, TJC, AAMI, and AORN, and explains how infection control integrates with QAPI and risk management programs. Participants will review the most commonly cited infection control deficiencies and practical strategies for improvement. The session concludes with best practices for monitoring key infection control activities on a weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual basis to strengthen compliance and patient safety.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Anesthesia Challenges and Solutions

Doug Jackson, SCA Health

This session will review the healthcare landscape related to anesthesia coverage challenges that require careful management and planning to ensure patient safety and operational efficiency.

12:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

CE INFORMATION

This program is approved for 8 hours of AEU credit and 2 IPCHs by BASC Provider #1201.

Provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 17648, for 8 contact hours

REGISTRATION

2026 GULF STATES ASC CONFERENCE & TRADESHOW JUNE 17-19, 2026 - THE RITZ-CARLTON, NEW ORLEANS

Name _____ Title _____

MD RN# _____ Other _____

Company/Center _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND FEES

Gulf States Conference Full Registration Includes:
All presentations on Thursday and Friday, Wednesday Night Reception, Thursday and Friday Breakfast, Thursday Lunch and Trade Show access.

GULF STATES MEMBER REGISTRATION

Members of the Alabama Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers (AAASC), the Mississippi Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (MASCA) or the Louisiana Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (LASCA)

Registration on/by May 18, 2026 \$525/person

Registration after May 18, 2026 \$600/person

GULF STATES NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

Centers who have not yet joined their state association qualify for this registration.

Registration on/by May 18, 2026 \$750/Person

Registration after May 18, 2026 \$825/Person

PAYMENT INFORMATION

If you would like to pay with a credit card (Visa, MC or AMEX), please register online at www.gulfstatesasc.com. Please note your credit card charge will show payment to ASC Excellence. If paying by check, please make checks payable to ASC Excellence and mail the form with a check to: c/o Lanigan & Associates, 314 Gordon Avenue, Thomasville, GA 31792.

REFUND POLICY

Written notification is required for all refunds and must be received at the GSC office by May 18, 2026. Written refund requests received by May 18, 2026 will receive a refund minus a \$25 administrative fee.

No refunds will be issued after May 18, 2026.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Please call the GSC office at 888.526.9450 by May 18, 2026 if you require any special accommodations or assistance.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the GSC office at 888.526.9450 or by email to tammy@ascmember.org.



Gulf States ASC Conference
1400 Village Square Blvd. #3-175
Tallahassee, FL 32312
888.526.9450

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THANK YOU SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS

(as of 3/22/26)

PREMIER



GOLD



SILVER



Special Thanks to our Exhibitors

AlSCO Uniforms
Biomedical Concepts, Inc.
Century Construction Group
Crown Health Care Laundry Services
Daniels Health
DPI Anesthesia
Fusion Workforce Solutions
Graham-Field

Green OR
Henry Schein, Inc.
Maxxeus
Medline
myStaffSchedule
nimble solutions
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Radon Medical Imaging
Shilston & Associates
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Soma Technology
Stryker
Surgery Stuff
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