



For Immediate Release

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CRICO/RMF launches landmark SAGES/ACS Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery Patient Safety Incentive Program

CRICO/RMF, insurance provider for the Harvard medical community, is rolling out a pilot program – **CRICO/RMF Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Patient Safety Incentive Program** – for insured general surgeons who perform laparoscopic surgery. Upon successful completion of the FLS program, a one-time patient safety incentive of \$500 will be awarded.

The FLS program was developed by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and is now jointly supported by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). FLS offers the opportunity for surgical residents and surgeons to practice and demonstrate a level of competence in skills fundamental to the performance of basic laparoscopic surgery. Recognizing the importance of this program, the surgical leadership in the Harvard medical community have agreed to partner with CRICO/RMF to help launch and promote this program.

FLS is a comprehensive, CD-ROM and soon to be web-based education module that includes a hands-on skills training component and validated assessment tool. FLS was designed to teach the physiology, fundamental knowledge and technical skills required in basic laparoscopy and covers such topics as techniques for safe entry into the peritoneal cavity, physiological changes associated with pneumoperitoneum, and appropriate use of energy sources. Upon completion of the didactic and manual skills training portion of the course, participants take a proctored, two-part exam that covers cognitive knowledge, technical skills and clinical judgment.

CRICO/RMF is generously supporting the training in both a self-study and postgraduate course offering. The postgraduate course is scheduled for January 5, 2008, at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, with a faculty of ten led by Daniel Jones, MD, of BIDMC. Upon successful completion of the program, a one-time patient safety incentive will be awarded for each participant. In addition, CME credits will be provided by SAGES.

To implement the pilot program CRICO/RMF is providing Harvard-affiliated hospitals with copies of the didactic CD-ROMs, FLS manual skills trainer boxes and training accessories, plus access to the program for 100 surgeons. Visit <http://www.rmfm.harvard.edu/FLS> for more information.

About the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) was founded in 1981 to foster, promote, support and encourage academic, clinical and research achievement in gastrointestinal Endoscopic surgery. The Society has grown from fewer than 50 original members to more than 5,500 from every state and over 80 countries. SAGES provide signature guidelines for training, standards of practice and granting of privileges, which promote patient safety and the best clinical outcomes. Visit <http://www.sages.org/> for more information.

About the American College of Surgeons (ACS)

Founded in 1913, the College is dedicated to improving the care of the surgical patient and to safeguarding standards of care in an optimal and ethical practice environment. The ACS has more than 64,000 Fellows and is the premier educational resource for surgeons and offers numerous activities for continuous professional development including Clinical Congress, CD-ROMs, Web casts, and e-learning modules. Visit <http://www.facs.org/> for more information.

About the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Program

Developed by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery program (FLS) includes cognitive and hands-on skills training components, and a validated assessment focusing on the physiology, fundamental knowledge, and technical skills required in basic laparoscopic surgery. Visit www.flsprogram.org for more information or e-mail fls@sages.org.

About CRICO/RMF

CRICO/RMF is the patient safety and medical malpractice insurance company owned by and serving the Harvard-affiliated medical community since 1976 and serves nearly 10,000 physicians, 18 hospitals, and 238 other health care organizations, assisting providers and institutions in their goal of delivering the safest health care in the world. Visit <http://www.rmfm.harvard.edu> for more information.