

September 2011

Certification Corner

Q: I heard that IAHCSSM started a campaign to gather proclamations from state governors and gain their support for CS Week. What, exactly, is a proclamation and how will this help our profession?

A: A proclamation is an official, formal, public announcement authorized by the signatures of the mayor, governor and/or legislature. It proclaims a day, week or month for a specific cause. There's no question, proclamations are a great way to earn support for the CSSD profession. For starters, the campaign was created to advance knowledge of the CSSD profession with state elected officials, while promoting acknowledgement and respect of those who work in the discipline.



**Government
Affairs Director
Josephine (Jo) Colacci**

This is important for several reasons. While CSSD professionals are deserving of recognition every day of the year, CS Week serves as an important reminder of your hard work and contributions, and role in the delivery of safe, high quality patient care. Taking time out to celebrate CS Week and obtain proclamations from state elected officials is not only good for morale, but also for setting the stage for further recognition and positive developments for the profession. The advancement of certification efforts at the state level is one important development that can occur as a result of this proclamation initiative and, of course, ongoing education. After all, the more state elected officials know about the CSSD profession and its impact on patient care and infection prevention, the better the chances for securing them as allies in the quest for state certification.

To learn more about IAHCSSM's proclamation campaign, go to page 2

IAHCSMM Campaign Targets CS Week Governor Proclamations

Over the summer, IAHCSMM started a campaign—with the help of its members—to obtain proclamations from state governors to declare Oct 9-15, 2011, as National Healthcare Central Service/Sterile Processing Week. As we obtain the proclamations, they will be posted on our website <http://www.iahcsmm.org/GovernmentAffairs/CSWeekProclamations.html>

What is a proclamation? A proclamation is an official, formal, public announcement authorized by the signatures of the Mayor, Governor and/or legislature. It proclaims a day, week or month for a specific cause. No question, proclamations are a great way to earn support for the Central Sterile Supply profession.

Be sure to check your email in September for action alerts regarding National Healthcare Central Service/Sterile Processing Week. With just a couple clicks, you will be on your way to sending letters to your elected officials (and also letters to the editor) regarding CS Week. This is a very simple action and should take no more than two minutes of your time. If you do not have an email address on file with IAHCSMM, please contact Jo Colacci at jo@iahcsmm.org and provide your email address.

What follows is our sample proclamation:



Instrumental to Patient Care®

WHEREAS, Central Sterile Supply Department technicians are responsible for processing surgical instruments, supplies and equipment; and

WHEREAS, serving in settings ranging from hospitals to ambulatory surgical centers, Central Sterile Supply Department technicians provide support to patient care services; and

WHEREAS, Central Sterile Supply Department tasks include decontaminating, cleaning, processing, assembling, sterilizing, storing, and distributing the medical devices and supplies needed for patient care; and

WHEREAS, the Central Sterile Supply Department of a healthcare facility is the heart of all activity surrounding instruments, supplies and equipment required for operating rooms, Endoscopy suites, ICU, birth centers and other patient care areas; and

WHEREAS, Central Sterile Supply Department technicians play a most important role in patient care arenas, and are responsible for first-line processes to prevent patient infections.

WHEREAS, Central Service Week recognizes the contribution Central Sterile Supply Department technicians make to patient safety and the opportunities and challenges facing the profession;

THEREFORE, I, (GOVERNOR), do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2011 National Healthcare Central Service/Sterile Processing Week.

