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Surgical Monitoring Associates Becomes the First Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring Healthcare Staffing Provider to Be Certified by The Joint Commission

SPRINGFIELD, Pa.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Surgical Monitoring Associates (SMA), one of the oldest and most respected providers of Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring (IONM) services in the nation, announces that it has been awarded the Gold Seal of Approval™ in Health Care Staffing Services (HCSS) from The Joint Commission, a not-for-profit organization that operates accreditation and certification programs for over 17,000 health care organizations and hospitals in the United States.

The principle mission of the Joint Commission is to improve health care delivery for the public by evaluating all aspects of clinical practice, training, record keeping, and business operations of health care organizations. To achieve HCSS Certification, SMA underwent an independent, comprehensive evaluation by a Joint Commission examiner that focused on education, training, competency and performance of our professional clinical staff, as well as excellence in leadership, human resources, performance measurement, and information management. "We are proud to be the first IONM practice in the USA to achieve certification in Health Care Staffing Services, and we have now set the Joint Commission standard for this growing health-care specialty. This award attests to SMA's best clinical and business practices," stated Tom Maffettone, SMA's CEO.

"Health care organizations including surgeons, hospitals and surgery centers that contract with Surgical Monitoring Associates can look to this certification as an assurance that SMA demonstrates a commitment to providing and continuously improving quality services," says Michele Sacco, M.S., Executive Director, Health Care Staffing Services Certification, Joint Commission.

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"Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring is an allied medical clinical specialty that helps identify developing injury to the brain, spinal cord or other neural structures during surgery, prompting rapid corrective intervention and thus preventing or minimizing the potential for neurologic complications," notes Dr. Daniel M. Schwartz, SMA's Founder and Chairman. Surgical Monitoring Associates Inc. is a proven national and world leader in the practice of intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring, with a long history of excellence in clinical service. Under the clinical leadership of Dr. Anthony K. Sestokas, Chief Clinical Operations Officer, SMA is recognized as an innovator in the development and refinement of techniques for prevention of neurologic insult during surgery. Both Drs. Schwartz and Sestokas have published extensively on neuromonitoring in leading orthopedic, neurosurgical and anesthesia journals and textbooks.

About Surgical Monitoring Associates

Established in 1986 by Dr. Daniel M. Schwartz, Surgical Monitoring Associates® (SMA) is among the oldest private practices within the specialty field of intraoperative neuromonitoring. Since inception, SMA has been at the forefront of the IONM field, and has achieved international acclaim for clinical excellence, innovation, research and leadership. Unique to SMA is its highly skilled team of professional level, fellowship-trained surgical neurophysiologists with expertise not only in the technical aspects of neuromonitoring, but also in the interpretation of neurophysiological monitoring data on-site in the operating room.

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