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**Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Recognizes Orthollinois Surgery Center with the Go Clear™ Award as a Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Smoke Evacuation**

**ROCKFORD, Ill. (August 16, 2023)** – The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), representing more than 200,000 surgical nurses across the country, has named Orthollinois Surgery Center in Rockford, Illinois as a [Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Smoke Evacuation](#). This award recognizes the medical center for its commitment to patient and workplace safety by taking a comprehensive approach to ensuring a smoke-free environment wherever surgical smoke is generated.

AORN’s Go Clear Award signifies that surgical teams at Orthollinois Surgery Center have successfully completed the comprehensive, evidence-based program and adopted technologies to ensure a surgical smoke-free environment for its patients and staff.

“Surgical smoke occurs every day in operating rooms and poses health risks to those exposed to it. AORN created this program so that every facility can understand the urgency and take steps to protect the health and safety of patients, nurses, doctors and support staff,” said AORN CEO & Executive Director Linda Groah, MSN, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, FAAN. “This Center of Excellence for Surgical Safety designation shows the community that the surgical teams at [this facility] are committed to providing high-quality care.”

Surgical smoke is a hazardous byproduct of any surgery involving a laser or an electrosurgical unit. Although research, professional organizations, and the federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) identified surgical smoke as harmful many years ago, this byproduct continues to be a safety hazard in the operating room. The Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Smoke Evacuation (Go Clear™) Program was developed to help perioperative teams improve safety efforts and protect staff and patients from the hazards of surgical smoke.

**About Orthollinois**

Established in 1967, Orthollinois, a division of OrthoMidwest, serves the northern Illinois region in multi-specialty orthopedics from offices in Algonquin, Elgin, McHenry, and Rockford, and offers a full range of bone and joint care, including the specialties of Rheumatology, podiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, interventional pain management, occupational health, and chiropractic. Orthollinois offers the ancillary services of physical therapy, MRI, and custom orthotics, a chiropractic clinic, and two outpatient surgery centers. Visits are available with no appointments at the Injury Express urgent care locations in Algonquin, Elgin, and Rockford. Visit [www.orthollinois.com](http://www.orthollinois.com) for more information. ##