



What is the Colorado Ambulatory Surgery Center Association?

- ❖ The Colorado Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (CASCA) currently represents ambulatory surgery centers and physicians across the state of Colorado.

What are Ambulatory Surgery Centers?

- ❖ Surgery centers are affordable, accessible, and safe facilities for outpatient treatment for surgeries that do not require hospital admissions.
- ❖ They are held to many of the same standards as hospitals; for example, they are required to be licensed to operate and must be certified by Medicare.

What do Ambulatory Surgery Centers Provide?

- ❖ ASCs offer better-quality outcomes, due to staff specialization, with physicians tailoring surgical suites to their specialty and operating style. ASCs are also usually quicker to implement technology advancements.
- ❖ Surgery centers are cost-effective, with lower overhead costs than hospitals. Prices are low and billed charges are clearly delineated for the patient, who pays one basic charge for the surgery center.
- ❖ ASCs provide a pleasant, intimate atmosphere, conducive to visits from family and friends. Thus surgery is less stressful and this often reduces the need for post-operative medication.
- ❖ Surgery centers feature high nurse-to-patient ratios, an absence of cost-shifting and virtually no infection rate (less than .3%)

What are CASCA's goals at the State level?

- ❖ Ensure that surgery centers remain in place as affordable and accessible alternatives for outpatient surgical care in Colorado.
- ❖ Play a supporting role in efforts to make our health care system more transparent, cost-effective and accountable for Colorado's consumers.
- ❖ Educate policymakers about the achievements inherent in the surgery center model of care and maximize surgery center utilization in efforts to achieve cost savings in Medicaid and Medicare.
- ❖ Collect and analyze data to support an informed public dialogue about the role of surgery centers in our health care delivery systems.
- ❖ Introduce legislation that would exempt ASCs in Colorado from state licensing, *if* they are accredited. This would be better for public health and safety, since the accreditation standards are demanding. This would be consistent with what is happening in a number of states.

What are CASCA's goals at the Federal level?

- ❖ Support advocacy efforts initiated by ASC Association (www.ascassociation.org).
- ❖ Investigate the current trend by insurance companies nationally and locally to exclude ASCs from viable contracts.
- ❖ Advocate a repeal of the current freeze on Medicare reimbursement rates for ASCs.
- ❖ Shed light on problems with the existing Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services list of ASC-approved procedures and urge the replacement of a separate ASC list with a system of parity between ASCs and Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs).
- ❖ Contribute new ideas and perspectives to the ongoing dialogue concerning the role of surgery centers in the nation's health care delivery system.

“ASCs play a very important role in creating a modern, innovative health care system by providing care at a lower cost with better patient satisfaction. With the challenge of rising health care costs, it is clear to me that innovation and creativity in ASCs can make a big difference in the quality and cost of health care.”

Mark McClellan MD, PhD, Former Administrator for Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, February 7, 2006, Washington DC

More than 70% of surgeries in the U.S. are conducted in an outpatient setting.

Colorado's ASCs are approved and accredited by the state's Department of Health, JCAHO AAASC, and AAAHC.

For more information about CASCA or surgery centers, visit us online at www.cascacolorado.com