

ASCs and Medicare

Since 1982, ASCs have saved Medicare a significant amount of money. One study shows that ASCs saved Medicare and its beneficiaries approximately \$2 billion annually by providing low cost services. ASCs that receive Medicare payments must meet the program's certification criteria and receive payments only for procedures that have been approved for reimbursement by the federal government. Today, Medicare beneficiaries can have more than 3,300 different procedures performed in ASCs.

ASC Practice in Tennessee Counties

County	No. Patients	County	No. Patients
Anderson	7,031	Lauderdale	1,594
Bedford	2,218	Lawrence	2,738
Benton	963	Lewis	949
Bledsoe	587	Lincoln	666
Blount	12,267	Loudon	3,442
Bradley	4,829	McMinn	3,084
Campbell	2,539	McNairy	759
Cannon	826	Macon	705
Carroll	1,387	Madison	3,908
Carter	3,072	Marion	1,352
Cheatham	2,652	Marshall	2,356
Chester	481	Maury	7,253
Claiborne	1,332	Meigs	1,017
Clay	200	Monroe	2,906
Cocke	937	Montgomery	9,319
Coffee	3,655	Moore	209
Crockett	748	Morgan	1,892
Cumberland	3,684	Obion	2,478
Davidson	41,182	Overton	763
Decatur	472	Perry	449
Dekalb	502	Pickett	152
Dickson	2,232	Polk	773
Dyer	2,530	Putnam	3,752
Fayette	2,866	Rhea	2,197
Fentress	1,076	Roane	4,191
Franklin	1,403	Robertson	3,392
Gibson	2,346	Rutherford	15,133
Giles	1,128	Scott	1,230
Grainger	1,063	Sequatchie	681
Greene	1,760	Sevier	3,943
Grundy	426	Shelby	71,763
Hamblen	1,606	Smith	685
Hamilton	22,993	Stewart	1,282
Hancock	132	Sullivan	17,655
Hardeman	1,338	Sumner	9,650
Hardin	540	Tipton	4,339
Hawkins	4,452	Trousdale	264
Haywood	704	Unicoi	1,179
Henderson	1,030	Union	1,187
Henry	2,000	VanBuren	132
Hickman	1,202	Warren	1,231
Houston	405	Washington	10,791
Humphreys	952	Wayne	688
Jackson	396	Weakley	1,545
Jefferson	2,094	White	1,003
Johnson	804	Williamson	13,139
Knox	29,494	Wilson	7,509
Lake	503	Unknown	12,669

Data provided by the Tennessee Department of Health.



Quick Facts

- 75% of complex cataract surgeries for Tennessee residents were performed in ASCs
- 69% of colorectal screenings for high risk Tennesseans were performed in ASCs
- More than half of the knee arthroscopy surgeries in the state were performed in ASCs

Let's Get Acquainted

ASCs are changing the face of health care in Tennessee's communities. They offer top quality care at cost-effective prices and they improve access to surgical services.

At FASCA of TN, we are eager to help you become better acquainted with our state's ASCs and the people who own and operate them. We are also eager to help you develop policies on ASC related issues.

If you have questions, please contact us. We will put you in touch with the experts and we can arrange a visit to an ASC in your area.



About FASCA of TN

The Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Center Association of Tennessee is a non profit trade association that represents the interests of those who operate, provide health care in, and seek the services of ASCs.

To enhance the quality of ambulatory surgery in freestanding centers in Tennessee, FASCA of TN:

- Works with legislative and regulatory bodies
- Liaisons with other organizations concerned with improving access to and reducing the costs of health care
- Conducts educational programs on ASC issues
- Promote public awareness of freestanding ambulatory surgery centers

Note: Much of the data offered here is from the Tennessee Department of Health Joint Annual Report of Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers for the reporting period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.



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Tennessee Ambulatory Surgery Centers

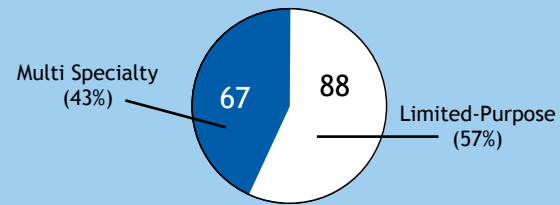


Meeting Our State's Needs

What are Ambulatory Surgery Centers?

Ambulatory surgery centers, or ASCs, are facilities where surgeries not requiring hospital admission are performed. ASCs provide cost-effective services and a more relaxing environment than hospitals. Patients who have surgery in an ASC arrive on the day of the procedure, have their surgery in a fully-equipped operating room and recover under the care of highly-skilled nurses — all without hospital admission. ASCs may perform surgeries in several specialties or dedicate their services to one specialty, such as eye care or sports medicine.

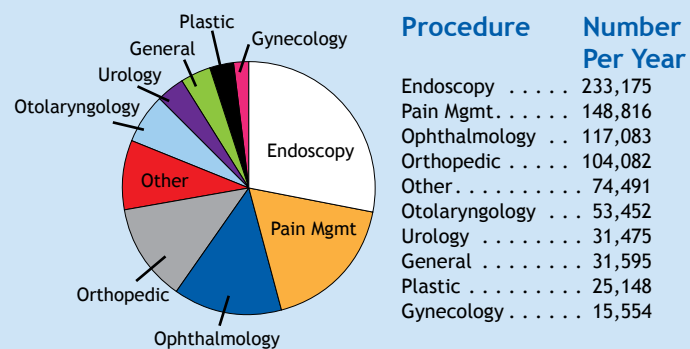
Tennessee ASCs Classifications



What ASCs are Not

ASCs are not rural health clinics, urgent care centers or clinics that provide diagnostic or primary health care services. ASCs only treat patients who have seen a health care provider and selected surgery as the appropriate treatment for their condition. ASCs are not physicians' offices. All ASCs are licensed and accredited in the same manner as hospitals. This ensures safe and effective surgery and pre and post-surgical patient care at the highest level.

Patient Use of Services from Tennessee ASCs



Small Businesses in Your Community



ASCs, sometimes called surgicenters, are usually small businesses owned by members of the community. In fact, 70% of ASCs have 20 or fewer full-time employees. This holds true in Tennessee, where ASCs employ 2,700 professionals (full and part-time). These small, community-based businesses benefit their communities not only by providing access to reasonably priced surgical care, but also by contributing to the local property and income tax bases and providing services and contributions to charities. ASCs also make significant contributions to their communities as family-friendly employers that offer good health and retirement benefits and often offer flexible work schedules to their employees.

ASCs were first constructed in Tennessee in the mid 1970s to provide high-quality, cost-effective surgical care to patients. Today, Tennessee is home to more than 160 ASCs, many owned and operated by community physicians. By involving physicians in their management, ASCs ensure that they choose the equipment and design the safeguards they need. This makes ASCs a great place for physicians to practice and a great place for patients to receive care.

For four decades, ASCs have improved patient care and advanced outpatient surgery. As a result, ASCs have introduced a number of health care innovations that benefit all patients, not just those who receive care in ASCs.

Accreditation, Certification and Licensing

ASCs are regulated in many ways. ASCs must meet specific requirements and obtain a state license. In addition, most provide care to Medicare beneficiaries and must meet Medicare standards. To obtain Medicare certification, and to obtain a state license, an ASC must have an inspection conducted by a state official or a representative of an organization that the government has authorized to conduct that inspection. These inspectors actually visit the ASC to verify that it meets established standards.

More than 830,000 procedures were performed by Tennessee ASCs in 2007-2008.

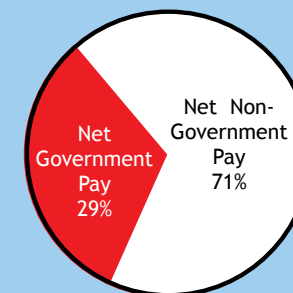


Tennessee ASC Medicare and TennCare Certified

	Certified	Not Certified
Medicare	150 (97%)	5 (3%)
TennCare	126 (81%)	29 (19%)

Tennessee ASCs' Annual Report to State Department of Health

The chart opposite displays the payer mix (as a percentage) for ASC procedures:



Net Government Pay \$188,531,982
 Net Non-Government Pay. . . . \$455,175,571



A Good Choice for Quality, Customer Service and Cost

Patient satisfaction is a hallmark of the ASC industry. When the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General surveyed Medicare beneficiaries who had one of four procedures in an ASC, it found that 98% of the people were satisfied with their experience.

The high level of professionalism, quality and safety ASCs offer is an important reason why patients and physicians choose ASCs for surgical procedures. A report of a three month period in 2009 from the ASC Quality Collaboration, showed the rate of transfers to a hospital from an ASC to be 1.010 per 1,000 ASC admissions. In another quality measure for the same time period, the rate of patient falls in the ASC was 0.179 per 1,000 admissions. In fact, studies overwhelmingly show that the quality of care delivered in ASCs is equal to or better than comparable hospital care.

Other reasons patients and physicians choose ASCs for surgical care are convenient scheduling and reliable service. For example, more than a third of ASCs report that greater than 90% of their surgeries start within seven minutes of the time the procedures are scheduled to begin.

In addition to providing high-quality health care and excellent service, ASCs save patients and insurers money. Medicare and its beneficiaries pay an average 54% more for a procedure performed in a hospital outpatient department than they would pay for the same procedure if performed in an ASC.