

## 46 Medicare-Certified ASCs in Nebraska

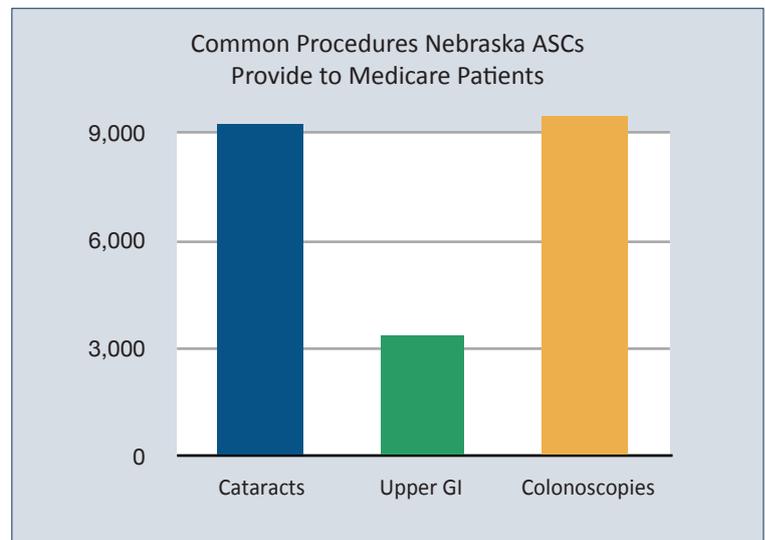
Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) provide Medicare beneficiaries essential surgical services. The procedures ASCs perform most often are cataract surgeries, colonoscopies, endoscopies and orthopedic procedures.

## ASCs Save Medicare Money

- ▶ According to a recent UC-Berkeley study, ASCs save Medicare \$2.3 billion each year on the 120 most common procedures that they perform for Medicare beneficiaries.
- ▶ According to the same study, if the ASC share within the Medicare system increased only 3%, the savings could exceed \$57.6 billion over 10 years.

## ASCs Save Medicare Money in Nebraska

- ▶ In 2014, Medicare saved \$7.2 million on cataract procedures because its beneficiaries elected to have those procedures performed in Nebraska ASCs.
- ▶ Nebraska patients saved more than \$1 million for a Upper GI procedures performed in ASCs.
- ▶ Medicare saved an additional \$3 million on colonoscopies because they were performed in Nebraska ASCs.



## Closing the Gap in Medicare Reimbursement Rates

- ▶ Closing the gap in hospital outpatient department (HOPD) and ASC reimbursement rates would help to move volume out of the higher-priced HOPDs and into cost-effective ASCs.
- ▶ In 2014, ASCs are paid only 55% of what HOPDs are for performing the same procedures. If this disparity continues to grow, the fundamental financial viability of ASCs as a health provider will be at risk.
- ▶ Medicare's current payment structure gives ASCs less ability than other providers to keep up with the rising costs in health care.