
1 Medicare-Certified ASC in Vermont

Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) provide essential surgical services to Medicare beneficiaries. Some of the most frequently performed services in ASCs are cataract surgeries, colonoscopies, endoscopies and orthopedic procedures.

ASCs Save Medicare Money

- ▶ Nationally, ASCs save Medicare \$2.6 billion each year by providing the same care that hospitals provide but in a lower cost setting.
- ▶ Medicare would save an additional \$24 billion over 10 years if just half of the eligible procedures moved from Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs) to ASCs.

ASCs Saved Vermont Money in 2014

- ▶ Vermont's only ASC saved Medicare \$1.1 million on cataract procedures.

Closing the Gap in Medicare Reimbursement Rates

- ▶ Closing the gap in HOPD and ASC reimbursement rates would help to move volume out of the higher-priced HOPDs and into cost-effective ASCs.
- ▶ ASCs are paid only 55% of what HOPDs are paid 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.