

AMBULATORY SURGERY

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I. DESCRIPTION

Surgery provided to the patient on an outpatient, walk-in, same day basis in an appropriately equipped and staffed health facility with surgery usually conducted under general anesthesia with no overnight stay in the hospital required. Also called same day surgery.

II. POLICY

A. Benefits are payable for medically necessary surgical procedures when ordered and provided or supervised by a physician, and performed in authorized freestanding ambulatory surgical facilities or hospital outpatient setting (e.g., a clinic, ambulatory surgery center, or emergency room). However, only those procedures listed in TRICARE Reimbursement Manual, [Chapter 9, Addendum A](#) can be covered in a freestanding ambulatory surgical center.

B. Institutional charges submitted by unauthorized ambulatory surgery centers cannot be covered.

C. Institutional charges submitted by authorized freestanding ambulatory surgery centers for services related to an unlisted procedure cannot be covered.

D. Professional services provided by authorized individual professional providers in an unauthorized ambulatory surgical centers will be covered on an outpatient basis if the surgical procedure is a covered benefit.

E. Professional services provided by employees of unauthorized centers cannot be covered.

F. Professional services provided by employees of authorized ambulatory surgical centers for services related to unlisted procedures can be covered on an outpatient basis, if the surgical procedure is a covered benefit.

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