

295 Medicare-Certified ASCs in Georgia

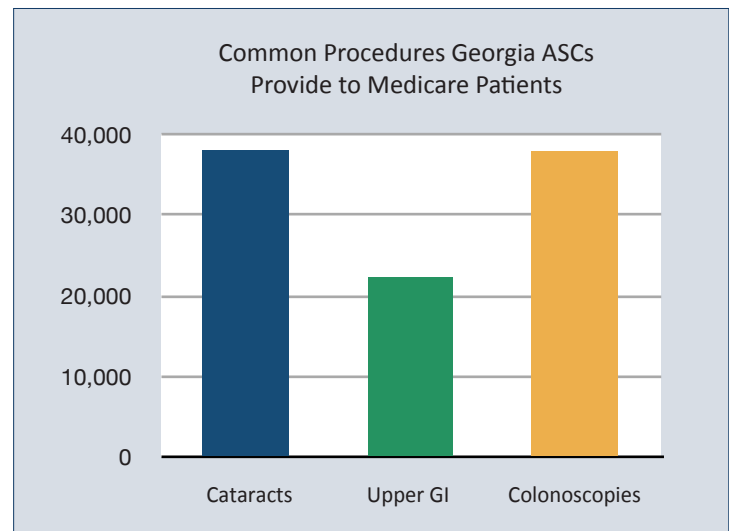
Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) provide essential surgical services to Medicare beneficiaries. The most often ones performed are cataract surgeries, colonoscopies, endoscopies and orthopedic procedures.

ASCs Save Medicare Money

- ▶ According to a recent UC-Berkeley study, ASCs save Medicare \$2.3 billion each year on just the 120 most common procedures that they perform on 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 Georgia

- ▶ In 2014, Medicare saved more than \$28 million on cataract procedures because its beneficiaries elected to have those procedures performed in Georgia ASCs.
- ▶ Medicare saved an additional \$6 million because 22,035 Upper GI procedures were performed in Georgia ASCs.
- ▶ Georgia patients saved more than \$12 million by electing to have their colonoscopies performed in 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 were 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.