

17 Medicare-Certified ASCs in Montana

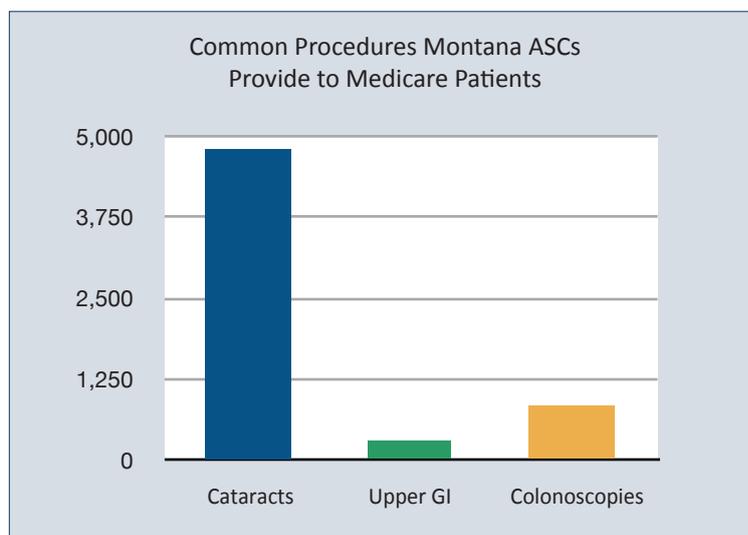
Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) provide Medicare beneficiaries essential surgical services. The procedures ASCs perform most often are cataract surgeries, colonoscopies, endoscopies and orthopedic procedures.

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 Montana

- ▶ In 2014, Medicare saved \$3.8 million on cataract procedures because its beneficiaries elected to have those procedures performed in Montana ASCs.
- ▶ Medicare saved an additional \$304,000 on colonoscopies because they were performed in Montana ASCs.
- ▶ Montana patients saved more than \$110,000 on just 350 Upper GI 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.