GREEN MOUNTAIN
SURGERY CENTER

The Difference between a Hospital and an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC)

The decision about where to have surgery is a personal one and we believe patients should have options. When considering those options it's important to understand some of the differences between an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) and hospital or hospital-based facility. Here are a few factors to consider:

Cost
The cost of a procedure at an ASC is typically 45-60% less than a hospital setting, but sometimes as high as 80-90% less.

Patient Satisfaction
Patient surveys reveal a 92% satisfaction rate with both the care and service they receive from ASCs. Patients rate hospitals with a 70% high satisfaction rate following a hospital surgery procedure.

Ownership
Most ASCs have some physician ownership, which allows for maximum professional control over the clinical environment and the quality of care delivered to patients.

Specialization
ASCs are able to focus on a specialized number of procedures, allowing physicians to design an environment that optimizes their ability to provide a high-quality, patient-centered surgical experience.

Scheduling and Timeliness
ASCs can exercise better control over scheduling, so virtually no procedures are delayed or rescheduled due to unforeseen factors such as emergency room demands. At least 70% of surgeries in an ASC start within seven minutes of their scheduled time. Additionally, 77% of ASC cases are finished within the scheduled time, compared to 38% at a hospital facility. This is important to patients and their families whose time is valuable.

Infection Rates
All Medicare-certified ASCs must comply with an extensive set of infection prevention standards that are monitored at each ASC daily and evaluated by external inspectors. ASCs have an excellent track record of providing safe patient care, and as a result ASCs experience only one surgical site infection per 1,000 patients on average. Estimated national average of surgical site infection rates at hospital facilities is around 2% (or 20 per 1,000 patients).