
AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER PRICE TRANSPARENCY

ASGE supports price transparency so consumers can make informed health care decisions. However, ASGE opposes efforts to impose new transparency requirements on ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) that are duplicative of existing transparency requirements and are likely to result in consumer confusion.

FACTS:

- ! Proposed ASC transparency requirements (S. 3548 and H.R. 6378) are duplicative of current transparency requirements causing unnecessary administrative burden on ASCs.
- ! Effective Jan. 1, 2024, group health plans and issuers of group and individual health insurance must make price comparison information available for *all* covered items and services.
- ! According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), this information must be made available through an internet-based, self-service tool and in paper form, upon request.¹
- ! Required information includes in-network provider rates for covered items and services, out-of-network allowed amounts and billed charges for covered items and services and negotiated rates and historical net prices for covered prescription drugs. Plans must also provide, upon request of a plan beneficiary, information about cost-sharing for covered items and services.²
- ! Effective Jan. 1, 2022, the *No Surprises Act* requires providers and facilities, including ASCs, to provide good faith estimates of charges for care to uninsured or self-pay individuals.
- ! An ASC controls just one aspect of the cost of health care services or procedures provided in their facility — the facility fee— which does not reflect the total cost of care and could lead to consumers being misinformed about what a service will actually cost.
- ! A consumer researching the cost for a health care service provided in an ASC would receive the most comprehensive information, including professional fees, ancillary fees, facility fees and their cost-sharing obligations, from their insurance company.
- ! Transparency of cost of care cannot be isolated from consumer understanding of the quality of health care being delivered. Transparency of price alone does not allow for fully informed consumer medical decision making.

¹ <https://www.cms.gov/healthplan-price-transparency/plans-and-issuers>

² <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/faqs-about-affordable-care-act-implementation-part-61.pdf>