

Get convenient, affordable care by choosing an ambulatory surgical center

Finding out that you need surgery can be stressful. You may have concerns about the surgery, or be worried about costs. The good news is that you may have choices that can save you time and money. Many surgeries can be done outside a hospital in an ambulatory surgical center—a medical facility dedicated to procedures that don't require an overnight stay. These are sometimes called outpatient surgeries.

Benefits of an ambulatory surgical center

Each ambulatory surgical center provides you with the safety of experienced staff and special equipment for specific surgeries.

Thanks to new technology, more procedures—like knee replacements, for example—can now be done in ambulatory surgical centers.

Ambulatory surgical centers feel less like a hospital and more like a regular doctor's office—and are often located in or near a doctor's office.

Category of surgery	Common procedures in that category
Ear, nose and throat	Tonsil removal, ear tubes
Stomach and colon issues	Colonoscopy (exam of the colon), endoscopy (exam of the digestive track), hemorrhoid removal
General	Biopsies (e.g., breast, bone, liver, etc.), hernia repair, appendix removal, gall bladder removal
Gynecology (women's health)	Hysteroscopy, hysterectomy (removal of the uterus), tubal ligation (having tubes tied)
Eye surgeries	Cataract removal, repair of retina, cornea transplant
Plastic surgery	Skin grafts
Foot issues	Bunion removal, hammer toe repair
Prostate, bladder and kidney issues	Some prostate surgeries, bladder exam by scope, kidney stone surgery
Blood vessel issues	Varicose vein removal
Joint and bone issues	Knee repair, ACL repair, shoulder repair, hand/wrist procedures, treatment of fractures or dislocations

How much can you save at an ambulatory surgical center?

Regence offers a coinsurance (cost share) discount of up to 10% for members having surgery at an ambulatory surgical center. This means that after you've met your deductible, whatever amount is your share of the surgery will be reduced by up to 10%*

What you might save: Sample costs

Tonsil removal

Inpatient hospital	
Price	\$3,500
Regular coinsurance	30%
You pay	\$1,050
Ambulatory surgical center	
Price	\$900
Discounted coinsurance**	20%
You pay	\$180 (SAVE \$870)

Hernia repair

Inpatient hospital	
Price	\$7,200
Regular coinsurance	30%
You pay	\$2,160
Ambulatory surgical center	
Price	\$2,100
Discounted coinsurance**	20%
You pay	\$420 (SAVE \$1,740)

Illustrative example only, using sample prices that reflect average cost differences between the same services rendered in an inpatient hospital vs. an ambulatory surgical center. Savings calculation assumes plan deductible has been met.

Is an ambulatory surgical center right for you?

If you're going to have one of these procedures, ask your doctor if an ambulatory surgical center is right for you. In some cases, it might not be the best option.

How to find an ambulatory surgical center

If an ambulatory surgical center is a good option, you can find one that's in-network by going to [regence.com/find-a-doctor](https://www.regence.com/find-a-doctor). Use the search term "ambulatory surgical center" for best results.

Need more help? Call the Customer Service number on the back of your member ID card.

*Reflects the 10% coinsurance discount. Ambulatory surgical center coinsurance discount may not apply to all plans. Ask your employer or contact Customer Service for more details.

**Some employers may provide a discount; check your plan to find out.



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