Outpatient general surgery precertification initiative

Amerigroup Community Care requires outpatient general surgery procedures to be provided at an ambulatory surgery center (ASC) or provider office unless precertified at a hospital in the following counties: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Effective March 1, 2019, only the services that cannot be provided safely and effectively at a freestanding ASC or an office will be approved to be performed at the hospital.

What is the impact of this change?
Unless there is a medical reason for providing the outpatient general surgery procedure listed on the provided code list in a hospital, the services must be performed at a freestanding ASC or in an office. Members who are 18 years of age or younger are excluded from this initiative.

Providers should review Section 1 of this communication for a list of procedure codes that will require precertification to be performed in a hospital. For code-specific precertification requirements, please refer to https://providers.amerigroup.com/MD > Provider Resources & Documents > Quick Tools > select Precertification Lookup Tool.

Providers should review Section 2 for a list of participating ASCs that offer general surgery services.

This initiative applies to providers in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Howard County, Montgomery County and Prince George's County and covers all general surgery codes listed on our provider website.

How do I obtain precertification?
You must call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730 and provide clinical documentation showing a medical reason why the member needs to have an outpatient general surgery procedure done in a hospital.

What if I need assistance?
If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

Thank you for the quality care you provide to our members.

* Participating provider listings change periodically. For the latest list of participating ASCs offering general surgery services, see our provider directory at https://providers.amerigroup.com/MD or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730 to find the facility most convenient for your patient.

Medical necessity criteria

List of relevant case or member-specific facts that support the use of hospital-based or regulated space procedures. Reasons may include but are not limited to:

- Ability of a freestanding site of service to safely and adequately accommodate and support the member in the course of treatment because of specialized equipment or staff skill set
- Access or availability of a freestanding site of service within the 30-minute or 30-mile standard
- Member is 18 years of age or younger
- Suffering from any of the following conditions:
  - Respiratory disease
    - Asthma
    - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/emphysema
    - Sleep apnea and actively using continuous positive airway pressure
  - Cardiac disease
    - Congestive heart failure symptomatic in the last month (any episode of documented or active congestive heart failure, emergency room visit, admission, worsening chronic congestive heart failure, recent adjustment of medicines, etc.)
    - Myocardial infarction within the last six weeks
    - Arrhythmia within the last six weeks
    - Pacemaker in place
    - Automatic implantable cardioverter defibrillator in place
    - On warfarin or another anticoagulant
    - On Plavix® or another platelet inhibitor
- Severe anemia/hematocrit <25%, platelets <30,000
- Morbid obesity/body mass index >40
- History of any complication with sedation, anesthesia or surgery

Section 1: Procedure codes required for precertification in a hospital

The following procedure codes will require precertification to be performed in a hospital.

Procedures performed in association with an ER visit or associated with an outpatient surgery performed at a hospital on the same day will not require precertification.

11042	11043	15823	15830	15832	17107	17110	17111	31231	31235
31237	31238	31254	31255	31256	31267	31575	31579	36430	36512
36514	47562	47563	49060	49083	49084	49320	49321	49322	49324
49329	49520	49521	49525	49550	49587	49650	49651	49652	49653
49654	49655	49656	64400	64402	64405	64417	64425	64430	64435
64447	64450	64479	64483	64484	64708	64713	64718	64721	

Section 2: Participating ASCs and providers

Baltimore County	
SurgiCenter of Baltimore 23 Crossroads Drive, Suite 100 Owings Mills, MD 21117	**White Marsh Surgery Center** 4924 Campbell Blvd. Nottingham, MD 21236
York Green Surgery Center LLC 1300 York Road, Suite 200 Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093	
Howard County	
Ellicott City Ambulatory Surgery Center 2850 N. Ridge Road Ellicott City, MD 21043	**University of MD Medicine Ambulatory Surgery Center** 5900 Waterloo Road, Suite 120 Columbia, MD 21045
Maryland Surgeons Center of Columbia 11055 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite L6 Columbia, MD 21044	
Montgomery County	
SurgCenter of Silver Spring LLC 8710 Cameron St., Suite 100 Silver Spring, MD 20910	**Capital Women's Care Specialty** 11400 Rockville Pike, Suite C25 Rockville, MD 20852
Prince George's County	
SurgCenter of Southern Maryland LLC 9001 Woodyard Road, Suite B Clinton, MD 20735	**Dimensions Healthcare System** 14999 Health Center Drive Bowie, MD 20716
Surgcenter of Greenbelt LLC 7300 Hanover Drive, Suite 102 Greenbelt, MD 20770	**University Center for Ambulatory Surgery** 6502 Kenilworth Ave., Suite 200 Riverdale, MD 20737