



HEALTH SUPPORT

GET GREAT CARE AND SAVE MONEY BY CHOOSING AN AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER

Finding out that you need surgery can be stressful. You may have concerns about the surgery. Or you could be worried about costs. The good news is that you may have choices that can help. Some surgeries can be done outside of a hospital in an Ambulatory Surgery Center—a medical facility dedicated to specific types of surgeries. These are usually procedures that don’t require an overnight stay. They are sometimes called “outpatient surgeries.”

Benefits of an Ambulatory Surgery Center

- Each Ambulatory Surgery Center specializes in certain surgeries, and is more likely to have special equipment and experienced staff.
- Thanks to new technology, more procedures—like knee replacements, for example—can now be done in Ambulatory Surgery Centers.
- Ambulatory Surgery Centers may be located near or in a doctor’s office instead of a hospital.

Category of Surgery	Common Procedures in that Category
Ear, nose & 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 veins
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 Surgery Center?

Regence offers a coinsurance (cost share) discount of up to 10% for members having surgery at an Ambulatory Surgery 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 Member Costs

Procedure: Tonsil Removal		Procedure: Hernia Repair	
In-Patient Hospital		In-Patient Hospital	
Price	\$3500	Price	\$7200
Regular Coinsurance	30%	Regular Coinsurance	30%
You Pay	\$1050	You Pay	\$2160
Ambulatory Surgery Center		Ambulatory Surgery Center	
Price	\$900	Price	\$2100
Discounted Coinsurance*	20%	Discounted Coinsurance*	20%
You Pay	\$180 (SAVE \$870)	You Pay	\$420 (SAVE \$1740)

Illustrative example only, using sample prices that reflect average cost differences between the same services rendered in an inpatient hospital vs. an Ambulatory Surgery Center. Savings calculation assumes plan deductible has been met. *Reflects the 10% coinsurance discount. Ambulatory Surgery Center Coinsurance Discount may not apply to all plans. Ask your employer or contact Customer Service for more details.

Is an Ambulatory Surgery Center right for you?

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

How to find an Ambulatory Surgery Center

If an Ambulatory Surgery Center is a good option, you can find one that's in network by going to regence.com/find-a-doctor. Use the search term "Free Standing Ambulatory Surgery Facility" for best results.

For more help, call Regence Member Services. This phone number is on the back of your ID card.

*On plans where the base coinsurance is 10%, the coinsurance discount will be 5%.

