

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 October 1, 2020, Amerigroup added additional codes to the redirection initiative. 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**.

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	31238	36514	49329	49659	64479	46080
11043	31254	36591	49520	62311	64483	
15823	31255	36592	49521	64400	64484	
15830	31256	47562	49525	64402	64708	
15832	31267	47563	49550	64405	64713	
17107	31292	49060	49650	64417	64718	
17110	31293	49084	49651	64425	64721	
17111	31575	49320	49652	64430	49083	
31231	31579	49321	49653	64435	49655	
31235	36430	49322	49654	64447	30520	
31237	36512	49324	49656	64450	38510	

Section 2: Participating ASCs and providers

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