

## 46 Medicare-Certified ASCs in Nebraska

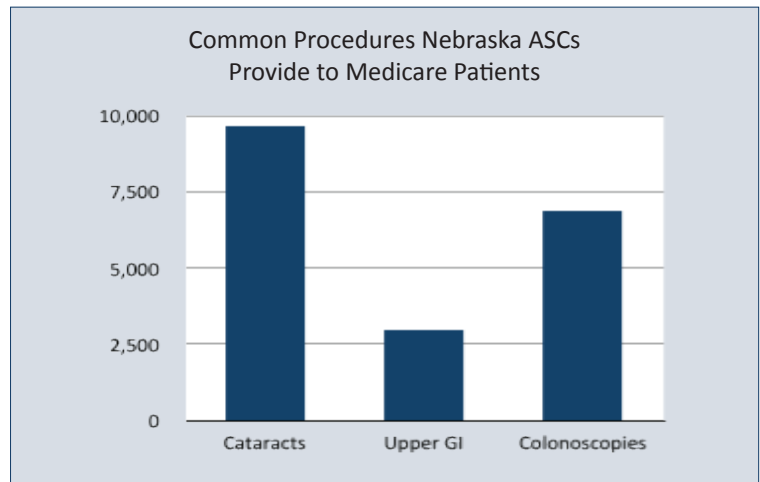
Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) provide essential surgical services to Medicare beneficiaries. Some of the most frequently performed services in ASCs are cataract surgeries, colonoscopies, endoscopies and orthopedic procedures.

## ASCs Save Medicare Money

- ▶ Nationally, ASCs save Medicare \$2.6 billion each year by providing the same care that hospitals provide but in a lower cost setting.
- ▶ Medicare would save an additional \$24 billion over 10 years if just half of the eligible procedures moved from Hospital Outpatient Departments (HOPDs) to ASCs.

## ASCs Saved Nebraska Money in 2011

- ▶ Medicare saved \$6.8 million on cataract procedures because its beneficiaries elected to have those procedures performed in Nebraska ASCs.
- ▶ Nebraska patients saved more than \$200,000 for arthroscopic knee and shoulder surgeries performed in ASCs.
- ▶ Medicare saved an additional \$1.9 million on colonoscopies because they were performed in Nebraska ASCs.



## Closing the Gap in Medicare Reimbursement Rates

- ▶ Closing the gap in HOPD and ASC reimbursement rates would help to move volume out of the higher-priced HOPDs and into cost-effective ASCs.
- ▶ ASCs are paid only 58% of what HOPDs are paid for performing the same procedures. If this disparity continues to grow, the fundamental financial viability of ASCs as a health provider will be at risk.
- ▶ Medicare's current payment structure gives ASCs less ability than other providers to keep up with the rising costs in health care.