

# ASC Physician Brief

## SURGERY CENTER ADVOCATES CONVERGE ON CAPITOL HILL

On February 26–28, ASCA members representing 28 states visited 161 Capitol Hill offices as part of [National Advocacy Day](#). Participants connected with nine physician lawmakers—Representatives Ami Bera (D-CA), Michael Burgess (R-TX), Yadira Caraveo (D-CO), Neal Dunn (R-FL), Andy Harris (R-MD), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Kim Schrier (D-WA) and Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Roger Marshall (R-KS)—to urge further support for the [Outpatient Surgery Quality and Access Act of 2023](#).



Senator Bill Cassidy (second from left) meets with ASCA Manager, Legislative & Political Affairs David Opong-Wadee; ASCA CEO Bill Prentice; and ASC advocates Adam Hornback, Akshay Tavkar and Stephanie Nelson.

## MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT POLICIES IN FLUX

In early March, Congress released proposed text for the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024*. Among the policies contained in the [1,050-page bill](#) is a partial fix for Medicare physician payments, which were cut by [3.4% in 2024](#). The bill proposes a [1.68% payment bump](#), which is still not enough to cover finalized cuts.

On the ASC payment front, Medicare has announced an upcoming demonstration project that will require physicians in 10 states to seek prior authorization before performing certain cosmetic surgery procedures often used to treat other conditions. ASCA anticipates the full program to be outlined in the 2025 proposed payment rule released this summer. For more, read the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' [Supporting Statement Part B](#).



## JOIN ASCA THIS APRIL FOR ASCA 2024

The [ASCA 2024 Conference & Expo](#) will convene in Orlando, Florida, April 17–20, with 50+ sessions, 60+ speakers and 150+ exhibitors, all focused on ASCs. [Register](#) and encourage your staff to register today!

## MEET DAVID WEINSTEIN, MD

David Weinstein, MD, specializes in sports medicine, knee surgery and shoulder and elbow disorders at the Surgical Center of the Rockies in Colorado Springs. He is also a clinical associate professor at the University of Colorado, a US Olympic team physician and an ASCA Board member.

Dr. Weinstein discussed total shoulder surgery with CMS staff just before CMS agreed to add that procedure to the ASC Covered Procedures List.



As part of ASCA's recent National Advocacy Day, he also visited 10 congressional offices to advocate for policies that would improve patient access to care in ASCs.

"I fully believe that, whenever possible, one of the best things I can do for my patients is give them access to the exemplary care our ASC provides," Weinstein says. "I encourage every physician who feels the same way to get involved with ASCA and ASC advocacy. We are the best advocates for the patients we serve and the work we do. We cannot expect others to speak for us."

## 2024 ASC AND HOPD RATE CALCULATORS AVAILABLE

ASCA members receive access to ASCA's proprietary [ASC and HOPD Medicare rate calculators](#). This tool allows you to select your state and county and view locally adjusted Medicare rates.