2020 was a tumultuous year for healthcare. ASCA worked with Congress, the White House and other federal officials throughout the year to support ASCs and ASC physicians.

**ASCA Advocated for:**
- resuming elective surgeries in ASCs during the public health emergency as soon as possible after the lockdown was enacted
- making valuable, pandemic-related financial relief programs, including the Paycheck Protection Program, Provider Relief Fund and Advanced Accelerated Payments, available to ASCs
- continued suspension of the 2% Medicare payment cuts tied to sequestration

**ASCA Opposed:**
- budget neutrality provisions in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule that would have caused drastic cuts to surgical specialty reimbursement

**MARKET INSIGHTS**

The ASC market, valued at $54.2 billion in 2019, is expected to grow by 5.6% annually, according to global market research firm Coherent Market Insights.

**MEDICARE MOVES OUTPATIENT**

In 2020, following years of ASCA advocacy, Medicare finalized a change to the ASC Conditions for Coverage that made 267 surgical procedures eligible for payment in ASCs. Medicare also finalized a proposal to eliminate its hospital inpatient-only (IPO) list over three years.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

A 2020 analysis by KNG Health Consulting projects that ASCs will perform **1 in 5 Medicare total knee replacements by 2028.** ASCs already reduce Medicare costs by over $2.5 billion per year and project to save the program over $10 billion per year by 2027.

**IS AN EHR RIGHT FOR YOUR ASC?**

ASCA has built an ongoing working relationship with staff at the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) to ensure that ASCs aren’t forced into unnecessary EHR implementations. At the same time, several EHR vendors that are ASCA affiliates have a direct line to ONC via regular roundtables that allow them to create the best solutions to fit your facility’s needs.