

# ASCA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF ASCS

## 1970 • 2020



I think the potential for growth is tremendous if the focus remains on providing excellent patient care and keeping costs reasonable. We need to continue to make the patient the absolute top priority, continue VIP treatment for surgeons and continue to make certain that there are financial benefits to the patient, the facility and the surgeon.

- Wallace Reed, MD  
cofounder of the first ASC

### 1970s

**1970** – The first ASC opens for business on **February 12** when five physicians perform the first five procedures at the facility. Four of those procedures require general anesthesia. By summer, **225** surgeons working in the ASC have the support of more than 40 insurers.

**1974** – The Society of Freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Care (ASCA's original name) is incorporated.

**1975–1979** – With an ever-increasing number of surgery centers being built, ASCs begin to become accredited through The Joint Commission and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) in programs designed to encourage and assist ambulatory healthcare organizations in providing the highest achievable level of care in the most efficient and economically sound manner.

### 1980s

**1982** – Medicare approves payment to ASCs for approximately **200 procedures**.

**1987** – Medicare expands its list of covered procedures in ASCs to **1,535 procedures**.

**1988** – The number of ASCs in the US reaches **1,000**.

### 1990s

**1995** – Medicare expands the ASC list to cover more than **2,000 procedures**.

**1995** – ASCs go international with the formation of the International Association for Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS) during the First International Congress on Ambulatory Surgery in Brussels.

### 2000s

**2002** – The ASC community creates the Certified Administrator Surgery Center (CASC) credential, the first-ever ASC-specific credential, establishing the role of the ASC administrator as separate and distinct from other healthcare management positions.

**2004** – More than **4,000 ASCs** in the US now perform eight million surgeries annually; Medicare has agreed to reimburse ASCs for providing more than **2,400 procedures** to its beneficiaries.

**2006** – The ASC community establishes the ASC Quality Collaboration to develop ASC quality measures, publicly report data and support high-quality care in ASCs.

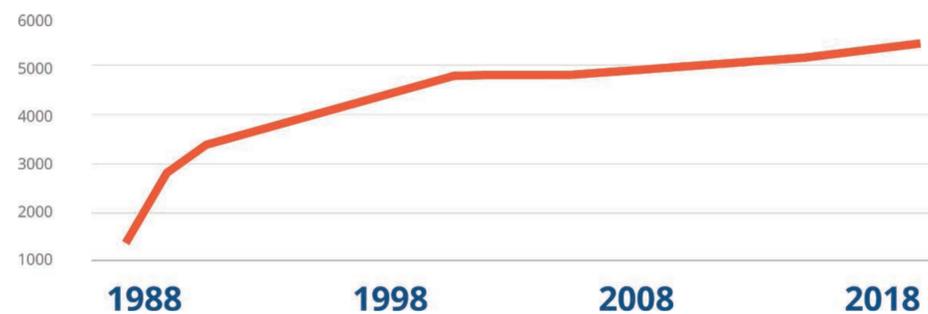
### 2010s

**2010** – Number of ASCs exceeds **5,000**.

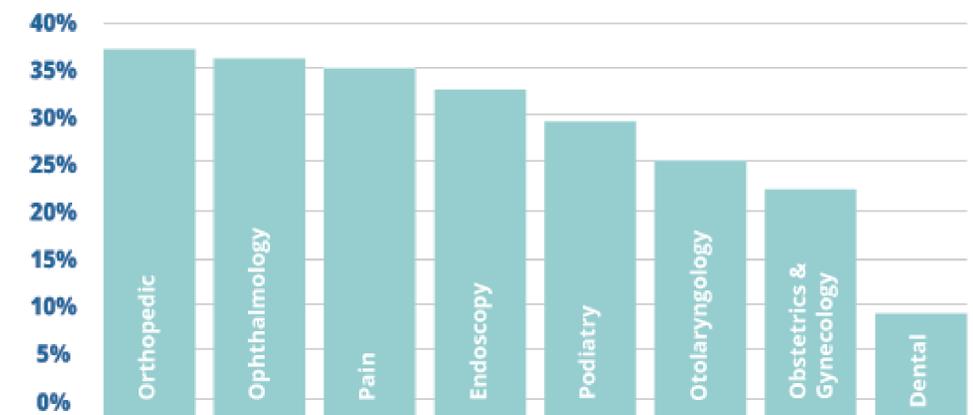
**2012** – At the ASC community's request, and with the support ASCs provided in developing meaningful quality measures for outpatient surgery, Medicare implements the first national quality reporting program for ASCs.

**2018** – The Board of Ambulatory Surgery Certification (BASC) introduces the Certified Ambulatory Infection Preventionist (CAIP) credential developed to recognize those with a comprehensive understanding of the skills and knowledge the role of ASC infection preventionist requires.

### Growth of ASCs in the US



### Percentages of ASCs Serving Medicare Beneficiaries by Specialty



Based on data provided by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, June 2019



The pioneers of the ASC model would be amazed by the many advances we have made in improving outcomes, promoting patient safety and enhancing the experience of ambulatory surgery since 1970. Each year, millions of patients receive the care they need thanks to the outstanding men and women who work in ASCs, and billions of dollars are saved thanks to our efforts to lower costs.

Larry Taylor  
president, ASCA

# TODAY

More than 5,800 ASCs perform an estimated 30 million procedures annually, now including total joint replacements and spine and cardiology procedures.