



Frequently Asked Questions - General

How does Leapfrog identify an ambulatory surgery center vs. a hospital outpatient department?

Leapfrog is using the following definitions adapted from the Code of Federal Regulations and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network:

- An ASC is a distinct entity that exclusively **provides same-day surgical services** to patients not requiring hospitalization. Important Characteristics of ASCs:
 - If certified by Medicare, the facility is certified as an ASC (not all ASCs are certified by Medicare) and has a 10-digit CMS Certification Number (nnCnnnnnnn)
 - Provides surgical services that do not exceed 24 hours
 - May or may not be affiliated with a hospital
 - Often are specialty-specific
- An HOPD is a location that provides **hospital outpatient services** and operates under the license of a hospital. Important Characteristics of HOPDs:
 - If certified by Medicare, the facility is certified as a hospital and has a 6-digit CMS Certification Number (nn-nnnn)
 - Provides outpatient hospital services, meaning preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, or palliative services that are furnished to **outpatients**
 - May be co-located with a hospital (e.g., a unit within the building or building connected to the main hospital) or separately located (e.g., a separate on/off campus surgical center)

If our facility includes several provider groups, all reporting to Medicare under different NPIs, should each provider group submit a Survey?

No. The Leapfrog ASC Survey is designed to collect information at the facility level, not the provider level (either individuals or groups). If your facility has multiple provider groups, you should only submit a single Survey based on all patients and procedures, provider groups or payers.

If our facility is part of a multi-center network of ambulatory surgery centers, can we submit a single Survey?

No. Similar to Leapfrog's Hospital Survey, Leapfrog is collecting facility-level data for ASCs. You should designate an individual, such as an Administrator or Nurse Manager, who works at each ASC in your chain/network to coordinate the completion of the Survey for their facility.

If our facility submits a 2021 Leapfrog ASC Survey, do we have to submit another Survey in 2022?

The Survey is a free, annual survey open from April 1 to November 30. In order to have publicly reported Survey Results each year, a new Survey will need to be submitted. This ensures that we always publish



the most accurate and up-to-date information. However, the Survey is also voluntary. Therefore, after submitting a Survey in 2021, you can decide not to submit a Survey in 2022.

Frequently Asked Questions – Survey Submission

How much time will this take?

In 2019 and 2020, Leapfrog solicited feedback from participating ASCs on the time it took to gather the data required to respond to the questions on the Survey. ASCs reported spending 5-7 hours on data collection.

What if I can't find the data you are asking for (e.g., missing or incomplete documentation, not measuring yet, etc.)?

If a measure is not applicable to your facility or you do not have documentation to support an affirmative response to a question or you have not yet implemented the processes or started administering the surveys Leapfrog is including (e.g., OAS CAHPS, AHRQ Surveys on Patient Safety Culture), respond “no” and move on to the next question or subsection.

Will the Survey use risk adjustment to assure fairness?

Leapfrog maintains strict standards for ensuring the evidence base and scientific validity of the measures used on our Surveys. In this first year, the [national Expert Panel](#), along with our research partners at Johns Hopkins Medicine, have recommended process and structural measures that research suggest can result in better outcomes for patients. These measures are relevant to all facilities performing ambulatory and outpatient procedures. Many of these process and structural measures have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and hospitals have been reporting on them for many years. The process and structural measures are not risk adjusted. As Leapfrog, our research partners, and our national Expert Panel review and add outcome measures to the Survey, they will evaluate and advise on the appropriateness of risk adjustment for patient and/or facility factors.

Frequently Asked Questions – Public Reporting

Are you reporting the same information about ambulatory surgery centers that you report about hospital outpatient procedures?

Our goal is to report substantially similar information about both settings. Leapfrog strongly believes that reporting about quality and safety should be patient-centered, and patients want the ability to compare among different places that perform the same procedures. As a result, we are committed to publicly reporting results from the Leapfrog ASC Survey and Section 10 of the Leapfrog Hospital Survey side-by-side so that patients can compare the safety and quality of both places.

That said, currently not all the information we collect is comparable between ambulatory surgery centers and hospital outpatient departments due to the limitations of some of the measures. For Questions? Contact the [Help Desk](#)



instance, the measure of surgical site infections for breast surgery is specifically validated for use by ASCs. Leapfrog works closely with our national Expert Panel and researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine, as well as quality leaders in the ambulatory surgery community and other stakeholders, to advocate for aligned measures that satisfy consumer need.

Isn't CMS already publicly reporting information on ASCs and hospital outpatient departments? Why is Leapfrog doing its own Survey and public reporting?

Yes, but it's not enough. Currently, CMS only collects and publicly reports information on a few measures common to both ASCs and hospital outpatient departments. The information is not reported in a way that allows patients to compare ASCs and hospital outpatient departments, and most measures are based on Medicare fee-for-service claims and exclude commercially insured patients all together. The information available from CMS is not adequate to meet the needs to patients, employers, and other healthcare purchasers.

Where will the ASC Survey Results be publicly reported?

Survey Results from the Leapfrog ASC Survey and Section 10 Outpatient Procedures of the Leapfrog Hospital Survey will be publicly reported by facility on Leapfrog's [website](#).