

## PURCHASER TOOLKIT

### *Key Talking Points on the Leapfrog ASC Public Reporting Program*

#### What is the Leapfrog ASC Public Reporting Program?

In 2026, Leapfrog launched a major redesign of the Leapfrog ASC Survey, now known as the ASC Public Reporting Program, to vastly increase access to safety and quality ratings available to the public. By July, we will report on thousands of ASCs.

Visitors to our public reporting [website](#) will be able to see and compare ASCs' progress towards achieving these robust, evidence-based patient safety and quality standards; identify ASCs that have earned Leapfrog's prestigious Top ASC Award; and quickly identify those ASCs that have demonstrated full transparency through voluntary reporting.

Leapfrog's ASC Public Reporting Program is the result of a year of intense engagement with our Ambulatory Surgery Center Advisory Committee, outreach to ASC networks and health systems, meetings with leading accrediting organizations including the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and Joint Commission (JC), and close consultation with Leapfrog's community of authoritative experts in performance improvement, including our national expert panels, the research team at Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality and, above all, our constituency of purchasers, employers, and consumer advocates.

There are three key components to the new program:

- **Make CMS ASCQR Data More Accessible to Consumers and Purchasers** - Leapfrog will score and publicly report thirteen (13) measures from the CMS Ambulatory Surgery Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program on our [Public Reporting website](#) to ensure that patients and family caregivers have a place to search for and easily compare facilities.
- **Highlight National Accreditation Standards and Replace Some Reporting Requirements** - ASCs with active accreditation through AAAHC or JC will be scored and publicly reported as Achieved the Standard (best score) for five (5) measures that previously required additional data collection to report performance via the Leapfrog ASC Survey.
- **Maintain Measures of Utmost Importance to Consumers and Purchasers** – ASCs will continue to be urged to voluntarily submit data to the ASC Survey 2.0 via the free and secure ASC

Dashboard by Leapfrog's [purchaser and employer members](#), so that Leapfrog can score and publicly report on eight (8) measures not nationally available by any other source.

### **Who is The Leapfrog Group?**

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving the movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care. For more than two decades, Leapfrog has collected, analyzed, and published hospital ratings on safety, quality, and resource use. Leapfrog is overhauling its Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Survey and public reporting program so every patient receiving care in an ASC can access the same life-saving information about patient safety and quality that has long been available for inpatient hospital care.

### **When will ASC Ratings be publicly available, and where can I see it?**

Results from the ASC Public Reporting Program, including the ASC Survey 2.0 will be available starting on July 25 at [ratings.leapfroggroup.org](https://ratings.leapfroggroup.org). Visitors to the public reporting website can search for facilities by name, city, state, or ZIP code; search by procedure; and select up to three facilities to compare side by side, including direct comparisons between ASCs and hospital outpatient departments.

### **Is there a cost for ASCs to participate?**

No. Public reporting of CMS ASCQR data, accreditation-based achievement, and the Leapfrog ASC Survey 2.0 are all available to ASCs at no cost. ASCs submit the voluntary Survey 2.0 through the free and secure ASC Dashboard. Free benchmarking reports comparing participating ASCs to hospital outpatient departments are also provided.

### **What should I do if my local ASC doesn't report any information to the Leapfrog ASC Program?**

Remember that beginning in late July 2026, Leapfrog will publicly report CMS ASCQR data on all ASCs that have at least one score for ASC 1-4 — so most ASCs in your area will already appear on the public reporting website. The question is whether they go further by sharing their accreditation and submitting the ASC Survey 2.0. There are several steps you can take to encourage fuller participation:

- Prioritize your outreach to ASCs. Many ASCs are independently owned or otherwise have operating structures that distinguish them. Choose a few of the highest-volume ASCs in your area and concentrate your effort on getting them to participate.
  - Messaging for 2026: Lead with telling them Leapfrog will be publicly reporting some of their CMS data starting late July 2026, and how your employers plan to use it. Then explain the two ways they can supplement the data we'll report: by sharing their accreditation information and by submitting a Leapfrog ASC Survey with additional quality and safety data.
- Meet with local ASC Associations and ASC Administrators in your region to discuss the value of participating in the new Leapfrog ASC Public Reporting Program, including public reporting benefits, benchmarking, and comparison to hospital outpatient departments.
- Invite ASCs in your area to a virtual or in-person Town Hall Call where Leapfrog staff will present the rationale for submitting the ASC Survey 2.0 and field questions from participants about the changes. (Date TBD)

#### **The Leapfrog Group**

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- Reach out to the local business bureaus to help identify ASCs in your area.
- Get your member employers involved by asking them to sign participation letters and by joining you on visits to local ASC facilities.
- Recognize Top ASCs in your area through events with employer members or media opportunities to demonstrate the value of participating and to encourage other ASCs to participate.

## **What measures are in the Leapfrog ASC Public Reporting Program?**

### **CMS Public Reporting**

- ASC-1: Patient Burn
- ASC-2: Patient Fall
- ASC-3: Wrong Site, Wrong Side, Wrong Patient, Wrong Procedure, or Wrong Implant
- ASC-4: All Cause Transfer/Admission
- ASC-12: Facility 7-Day Risk-Standardized Hospital Visit Rate after Outpatient Colonoscopy "
- ASC-14: Unplanned Anterior Vitrectomy
- ASC-17: Hospital Visits after Orthopedic Ambulatory Surgical Center Procedures
- ASC-18: Hospital Visits after Urology Ambulatory Surgical Center Procedures
- ASC-19: Facility-Level-7-Day Hospital Visits after General Surgery Procedures Performed at Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Additionally, the program includes four (4) patient experience domains from the OAS CAHPS survey:

- Facilities and Staff
- Communication About Your Procedure
- Patient's Rating of the Facility
- Patients Recommending the Facility

### **ASC Accreditation Standards**

The five measures earning a score of “Achieved the Standard” based on accreditation standards are:

- Clinicians Certified in Advanced Life Support Always Present,
- Use of a Safe Surgery Checklist,
- Medication and Allergy Documentation,
- Leadership Structures and Systems to Support Patient Safety, and
- Identification and Mitigation of Patient Safety Risks.

These measures previously required separate data collection through the Leapfrog ASC Survey and currently collected via the Leapfrog Hospital Survey.

### **ASC Survey 2.0**

*Patients' Rights and Ethics*

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- **Billing Ethics:** Ensures financial transparency and protects employees from the financial distress and productivity loss associated with predatory billing practices.
- **Health Care Equity:** Promotes consistent delivery of high-quality care to your entire workforce, which is essential for managing long-term health plan costs and supporting corporate equity goals.
- **Informed Consent:** High performance on informed consent reduces the risk of legal liability for your health plan and ensures employees are making high-value, informed choices about their care.
- **Taking Responsibility for Never Events:** Protects employers from paying for egregious medical errors — such as surgery on the wrong body part — that should never occur in a high-quality facility, and ensures employees are respected while the ASC takes steps to prevent recurrence.

### *Patient Safety Practices*

- **Infection Surveillance:** Effective surveillance of infections means the ASC is on top of potential vulnerabilities, keeping your employees safe and reducing the total cost of a surgical episode.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Poor implementation of hand hygiene practices is a leading cause of infections acquired in ASCs, driving total episode costs and putting lives at risk.
- **Culture of Safety:** A broad view of all the steps an ASC can take to reduce errors, injuries, and infections.

### *Volume of Procedures*

For each of these common, high-cost procedures, scientific research has established a definitive link between an ASC's experience with the procedure and the rate of complications and errors. Only facilities performing dozens of these procedures every year can be considered among the safest destinations for care.

- Total Knee Replacement
- Total Hip Replacement
- Bariatric Surgery for Weight Loss

### *Optional: Facility Volume for Select Procedures*

For procedures where a volume-outcome relationship has not been formally studied but is likely, volume reporting allows purchasers and consumers to prefer facilities with more experience. This covers all of the most common procedures performed in an ASC.

## **What is the Top ASC designation?**

Top ASC is Leapfrog's annual recognition awarded to ASCs that demonstrate excellence across the Leapfrog ASC Survey 2.0. Only ASCs that voluntarily submit the Survey are eligible. Leapfrog recognizes Top ASCs each December, and Regional Leaders across the country use the designation to celebrate high-performing facilities in their communities. Case studies from past Top ASCs — including Knoxville

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Orthopaedic Surgery Center and Baptist Health South Florida — are available on Leapfrog's website and have been featured in Becker's ASC Review.

### **How does the ASC Public Reporting Program relate to the Leapfrog Hospital Survey and Hospital Safety Grade?**

The Leapfrog Hospital Survey evaluates hospitals on the safety, quality, and efficiency of inpatient and outpatient care. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D, or F letter grade to general acute care hospitals based on their performance on measures of patient safety. The ASC Public Reporting Program extends this transparency work to ambulatory surgery centers and — uniquely — allows direct comparison between ASCs and hospital outpatient departments at [ratings.leapfroggroup.org](https://ratings.leapfroggroup.org). Together, these programs give purchasers and consumers a comprehensive view of safety and quality across the settings where care is delivered.

### **How can employees or health plan members use the public reporting website?**

Starting in late July 2026, employees, members, and the public can go to [ratings.leapfroggroup.org](https://ratings.leapfroggroup.org) to:

- Search for ASCs by name, city, state, or ZIP code
- Search by procedure (such as knee replacement or bariatric surgery)
- Compare up to three facilities side by side, including ASCs against hospital outpatient departments
- See which ASCs have earned Achieved the Standard on each publicly reported measure
- Identify ASCs that have earned the Top ASC designation
- Print and share results

This information helps employees and members make informed choices about where to seek outpatient surgical care.

### **If an ASC already reports to CMS, why should they do anything more?**

Reporting to CMS satisfies a regulatory requirement. Reporting to Leapfrog tells a story. CMS ASCQR data will now be scored and presented in a consumer- and purchaser-friendly format on Leapfrog's public reporting website, alongside ASCs that have gone further by sharing their accreditation and submitting Survey 2.0. ASCs that complete all three tiers stand out to employers and patients as fully transparent. With Survey 2.0 workload cut by as much as 50% and five measures automatically scored through accreditation upload, it has never been easier for an ASC to achieve full public reporting with Leapfrog.

### **Where can ASCs go for help?**

- **ASC Public Reporting Program website:** [www.leapfroggroup.org/asc](https://www.leapfroggroup.org/asc)
- **Leapfrog Help Desk:** [helpdesk@leapfrog-group.org](mailto:helpdesk@leapfrog-group.org) or <https://leapfroghelpdesk.zendesk.com>
- **Public reporting results:** <https://ratings.leapfroggroup.org>
- **Security Code Request form:** <https://www.leapfroggroup.org/asc-program/get-asc-security-code>

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