

FREESTANDING AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER

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I. ISSUE

Freestanding ambulatory surgery centers.

II. POLICY

A. Each contractor is the certifying authority for applications for status as an authorized institutional provider for freestanding ambulatory surgery centers located within their geographical jurisdiction.

B. Free standing ambulatory surgical centers are covered under the following circumstances:

1. The treatment is prescribed and supervised by a physician.
2. The type and level of care and services rendered by the center are covered services.
3. The center meets all licensing or other certification requirements of the jurisdiction in which the facility is located.
4. The center is accredited by the JCAHO or the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC), or other standards as authorized by the Director, TRICARE Management Activity. Status as an **accredited** Medicare Freestanding Ambulatory Surgery Center **is** accepted **in lieu** of accreditation by the JCAHO or the AAAHC. The Contractors may contact the **Medical Benefits and Reimbursement Systems Division** to determine if other accreditation organizations can be recognized by TRICARE.
5. A childbirth procedure provided by an authorized free-standing ambulatory surgical center shall not be covered unless the surgical center is also an authorized birthing center institutional provider as established by the birthing center provider certification requirements.

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