



## Facts about Office-Based Surgery Accreditation

The Joint Commission introduced standards and a survey process for smaller office-based surgery practices in 2001. The Joint Commission's Office-Based Surgery (OBS) Accreditation Program serves specifically as a quality oversight tool for surgical practices with four or fewer practitioners. More than 500 office-based surgery practices are accredited by The Joint Commission.

### Benefits of accreditation

- Demonstrates a commitment to the highest level of patient safety and patient care.
- Eases access to managed care contracts and encourages patient referrals.
- Increases competitive edge.
- Nationally acknowledged benchmark of quality.
- Provides constructive educational opportunity.
- Experienced surveyors offer valuable insights and compliance tips.

### Eligibility

Surgical practices must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for accreditation under the office-based surgery standards:

- The organization or practice is composed of four or fewer licensed independent practitioners performing operative or invasive procedures. Multi-site office-based surgery practices are also limited to a combined total of four or fewer LIPs.
- The organization or practice must be physician owned or operated, for example, a professional services corporation, private physician office or small group practice. "Physician" includes dentist or podiatrist.
- Invasive services are provided to patients. (Practices only providing procedures such as excisions of skin lesions, moles, warts and abscess drainage limited to the skin and subcutaneous tissue are typically not surveyed under the OBS standards.)
- Local anesthesia, minimal sedation, moderate sedation or general anesthesia is administered. (Includes laser eye surgery using topical anesthesia.)

Organizations seeking Medicare certification through The Joint Commission (deemed status surveys) must be surveyed under the *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Ambulatory Care*.

### Standards

The OBS standards are a customized subset of The Joint Commission's ambulatory care standards, maintaining the integrity of the ambulatory care accreditation process and ensuring the highest level of patient care and safety. The Joint Commission's standards address the office-based surgery practice in specific areas, and indicate requirements to ensure that patient care is provided in a safe manner. The Joint Commission develops its standards in consultation with health care experts, providers and researchers, as well as purchasers and consumers. The standards-based performance areas for office-based surgery practices are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment of Care</li> <li>▪ Emergency Management</li> <li>▪ Human Resources</li> <li>▪ Infection Prevention and Control</li> <li>▪ Information Management</li> <li>▪ Leadership</li> <li>▪ Life Safety</li> <li>▪ Medication Management</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National Patient Safety Goals</li> <li>▪ Performance Improvement</li> <li>▪ Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services</li> <li>▪ Record of Care, Treatment, and Services</li> <li>▪ Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual</li> <li>▪ Transplant Safety</li> <li>▪ Waived Testing</li> </ul> |
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The *Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Office-Based Surgery Practices* is available for purchase online at [www.jcrinc.com](http://www.jcrinc.com), or by calling JCR Customer Service toll free at (877) 223-8886.