



# Outpatient Care Alternatives

Having common outpatient procedures and testing such as colonoscopies, mammograms, CTs, MRIs, x-rays, and ultrasounds at outpatient diagnostic centers or clinics known as ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) offer convenience and cost savings.



## Convenience

CareSource partners with many outpatient diagnostic centers and ASCs, and there is likely one close to your home or work. These free-standing centers may be closer to home, smaller and easier to navigate than a large hospital facility.

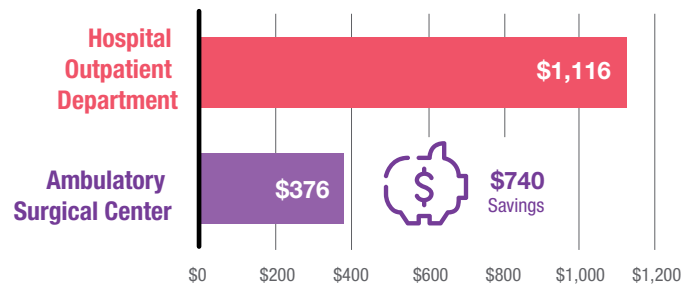


## Cost Savings

Having routine procedures and testing at hospital outpatient departments can have much higher out-of-pocket costs than an outpatient diagnostic center or ASC. Using a diagnostic center or ASC can reduce your costs by as much as 66 percent.\*

The average cost of common radiology or gastrointestinal (GI) procedures performed in a hospital outpatient department is \$1,116 compared to \$376 if performed at a diagnostic center or ASC.

*\*Sources: National Institutes of Health, Fierce Healthcare, Definitive Healthcare*



## Safety

When it comes to patient safety, there is really no difference between a hospital and an outpatient diagnostic center or ASC. Providers follow the same patient safety guidelines. The facilities are required to maintain programs to prevent infections. In fact, considering COVID and other contagions, using a diagnostic center or ASC may be safer. There are fewer people using the facility for more limited purposes.



## Get More Information

Talk to your provider about your options for using an outpatient diagnostic center or ASC when you need a diagnostic test or simple procedure. If your provider is unsure of what facilities are in your network, use our **Find A Doctor** online tool to look them up, or call Member Services at **1-833-230-2099** (TTY: 711), from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Your provider can call our Provider Services department at **1-833-230-2101** to find a network facility that they would prefer you use.