

**QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN HAVING SURGERY IN AN
AMBULATORY SURGERY FACILITY**

PART I – MAKING YOUR DECISION		
		Location and General Information
Yes	No	Is the ambulatory surgical facility conveniently located? Are overnight accommodations nearby if you choose a facility that is not within reasonable driving distance?
Yes	No	Visit the facility. Is it clean? Ask to see the waiting rooms and the recovery rooms. Does the waiting room look comfortable? Would you want to recuperate in the recovery room? Is there adequate privacy?
		Services/Fees
Yes	No	Does the facility have a written description of its services and fees? How will you be billed for your surgery, the surgeon, and follow-up care?
Yes	No	Will the facility accept your health insurance? How much will you be expected to pay out of your pocket and what is the accepted method of payment?
		Quality
Yes	No	Is the facility licensed by the State of Maryland?
Yes	No	Does a nationally recognized accrediting body accredit the facility? (Accreditation is an evaluation process in which an objective group (accrediting body) examines a facility to ensure that it is meeting certain standards developed by experts in the field.)
Yes	No	How are problems with care investigated? (Please see <u>What To Do If You Have A Complaint</u> if a problem occurs during your stay.)
Yes	No	Does the facility have a written description of the patient's rights and responsibilities?
Yes	No	Does the facility have information available in different languages when English is not your primary language?
Yes	No	Is the facility affiliated with a hospital? If it is not, how will the facility handle any emergency that might happen during your visit? In the event of an emergency, to which hospital would you be transferred and is your physician allowed to provide

		care at this hospital?
Yes	No	<p>How many times has the <u>facility</u> performed the same or similar type of surgery that you are having within the last year? How many times has your <u>surgeon</u> performed the same or similar type of surgery that you are having within the last year?</p> <p>(Volume is useful in that it gives an idea of the experience a facility has in a particular surgery or procedure. A surgeon practicing at that facility may have performed only a portion of the procedures done in the facility. Some studies have shown that treating more cases of a certain type can lead to better outcomes. Volume, however, is just one factor to consider. The differences in volume may not always indicate the level of quality.)</p>
PART II – BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SURGERY		
Yes	No	Does the facility provide information on what you need to do prior to surgery? Does the facility provide instructions on what you should eat, drink, and wear? What medications should you take or not take prior to the surgery? What time should you arrive?
Yes	No	How long will you have to wait after you arrive on the day of surgery before your surgery will begin?
Yes	No	Will you have anesthesia and if so what type of anesthesia will you have? How long will it take to recover from the anesthesia?
Yes	No	How long will you be in the recovery room after surgery? Will a family member be allowed in the recovery room? Does the facility provide easy-to-understand written discharge instructions? Will you need to make arrangements for a ride home?
Yes	No	Does the facility provide information about the signs and symptoms that would indicate a possible complication? Are instructions provided on what you should do if you have a complication once you leave the facility?
Yes	No	Is there information available that will help you determine how long it will take you to recover from the procedure?

Notes:
