



**DATE: May 29, 2025**

**TO: MHCC Commissioners**

**FROM: Theresa Lee, Director, Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting**

**SUBJECT: 2024 Joint Chairman Report MHCC – Private Payer Coverage of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities**

The MHCC staff have completed the Final Report on the Private Payer Coverage of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities as required by the 2024 Joint Chairmen’s Report (JCR). Under the 2024 JCR, the Commission was required to conduct a comprehensive study on the policies and procedures for including ambulatory surgical centers (ASC) in private health insurance plans. Additionally, the report includes: a detailed analysis of the cost differential between procedures performed in hospitals [outpatient departments] and procedures performed in ASCs; and an assessment of the impact of integrating ambulatory surgical centers with the Total Cost of Care Model or its successor model under the CMS All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. It is important to note that Maryland is actively finalizing the terms of its participation in the CMS AHEAD Model, with implementation scheduled to begin on January 1, 2026.

This report reflects the collaborative work between MHCC staff and our contractor, Advanta Government Services LLC (AGS), whose research and analytic expertise contributed meaningfully to the development of this report.

The results of this study will be presented at the June Commission meeting by Mark Moffett, PhD, Senior Health Economist with AGS. If you have questions prior to our meeting, please contact me at [Theresa.Lee@maryland.gov](mailto:Theresa.Lee@maryland.gov).