

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 29.1
TITLE: AMBULATORY SURGERY

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: Public Law 96-552; 32 CFR 199.4(f)(2)(iv)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 7, Section 9.1

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

December 19, 1980

II. DESCRIPTION

Surgery provided to the patient on an outpatient, walk-in, same day basis in an appropriately equipped and staffed health facility, with surgery usually conducted under general anesthesia with no overnight stay in the hospital required. Also called same day surgery.

III. POLICY

Benefits are payable for medically necessary surgical procedures when ordered and provided or supervised by a physician, and performed in approved ambulatory surgical facilities, both freestanding and hospital based, for all CHAMPVA beneficiaries, as long as the type and level of care and services rendered by the facility is at the appropriate level required to provide the medically necessary treatment.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. Cost-sharing for ambulatory surgery services, including all related pre- and post-surgical services and supplies, will be outpatient

B. All beneficiaries are responsible for the appropriate cost-share for each ambulatory surgical procedure performed more than 24 hours apart.

C. Professional services provided by individual professional providers for surgical services performed in nonapproved ambulatory surgical centers will be cost-shared on an outpatient basis for all beneficiaries.

D. Institutional charges submitted by nonapproved ambulatory surgery centers cannot be cost-shared. The CHAMPVA Center will deny these charges as "provider not authorized."

E. Professional services provided by employees of nonapproved centers cannot be cost-shared.

F. Institutional charges submitted by authorized freestanding ambulatory surgery centers for services related to an unlisted procedure cannot be cost-shared. The CHAMPVA Center will deny these charges as "provider not CHAMPVA-authorized for this service."

G. Professional services provided by employees of authorized ambulatory surgical centers for services related to unlisted procedures can be cost-shared on an outpatient basis, so long as the services are a CHAMPVA benefit.

H. The cost-share provisions outlined in this issuance will be applied to foreign claims.

I. Certification criteria for ambulatory surgery centers do not apply to foreign providers.

J. See [Chapter 3, Section 2.1](#), *Cost Share*, for specific information.

END OF POLICY