

CHANGES TO MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW CRITERIA FOR AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER SITE OF CARE

Applies to: Commercial - HMO POS PPO Medicare Advantage

Network list: <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/communications/letters>

Effective August 1, 2026, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are expanding the application of the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Site-of-Care (SOC) Medical policy to the Medicare line of business.

Explanation of the change:

Kaiser Permanente is expanding the use of Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Site-of-Care medical necessity criteria to the Medicare line of business, aligning Medicare Advantage oversight with the existing commercial framework. As part of this update, select elective outpatient procedures requested in a hospital setting will undergo a Site-of-Care review to determine medical appropriateness. When clinically appropriate, procedures may be redirected to the most suitable and cost-effective setting.

To review the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) - Site of Care Policy clinical review criteria, please visit the Kaiser Permanente provider website at:

https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/asc_soc.pdf

Is prior authorization required?

- Medicare Advantage: Prior authorization is required.

Questions: Contact Provider Assistance Unit at 1-888-767-4670, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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