

All stakeholders, whether [hospital](#), [payer](#), or [patients](#) are now focusing on [cost](#) containment, [quality](#) improvement, and reducing [length of stay](#) for surgical patients. The natural extension of this is a shift in care from the [inpatient](#) setting to [outpatient](#) and [ambulatory surgery centers](#) (ASCs). Due to advances in both [surgery](#) and [anesthesiology](#), many [operations](#) are now possible in the outpatient setting. For [spine surgery](#) alone, annual cost savings of \$140 million have been reported with the use of ASCs <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Silvers HR, Lewis PJ, Suddaby LS, Asch HL, Clabeaux DE, Blumenson LE. Day surgery for cervical microdiscectomy: is it safe and effective? J Spinal Disord. 1996 Aug;9(4):287-93. PubMed PMID: 8877954.

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