

# Patient Safety News

*A Quarterly Update*

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Patient Safety is paramount to the members of the ASC PSO, LLC. As a member of the organization, this facility has also made improving patient safety and quality of care its mission. It is our belief, that everyone has a role in making health care safe, and as a patient, you play a vital role in this process. By becoming an active, informed and involved member

of your health care team, we will all have a more positive experience. In fact, research shows that patients who take part in their own health care decisions are more likely to have better outcomes. The following list has been developed to assist patients in becoming more informed consumers of health care.

- Accreditation is an important mark of distinction for ambulatory surgery centers. Look for the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) or the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) accreditation when choosing a facility.
- If you have questions or concerns about your care, don't be afraid to ask for clarification.
- Ask questions of your physician.
  - How many times have they performed this procedure?
  - Who will administer anesthesia?
  - Is this individual credentialed to administer anesthesia?
  - What are my choices for anesthesia?
  - What sort of monitoring will be provided during my procedure?
  - What hospital does this facility have a relationship with in the event of a complication?
  - Where will I be taken following the procedure to recover?
  - What are the qualifications of the individual who will be monitoring me during my recovery?
  - Who is responsible for determining if I am ready to be discharged home?
- Thoroughly read all medical forms and make sure you understand them before you sign them.
- Write down important facts your doctor tells you and ask for written material.
- Know what medications you have taken and when you have taken them.
- If you are taking multiple medications ask your doctor or pharmacist if it is safe to take them together.

***Being well informed about the care you are about to receive will help to ensure a positive experience for you as the patient.***