

# YOU SHOULD KNOW

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March 2019



## Do Homework before Saying Yes to a Surgery Center

We're betting you or someone you know has been referred to a surgery center for a routine procedure without even knowing it was a surgery center. That's because inside they look like a hospital with patient suites, operating rooms, etc. But here's the rub: Surgery centers are NOT regulated by state or national agencies like hospitals. And recent investigations indicate that patients are paying for this lax oversight with their health and even their lives. Our advice – use the information and tips in this newsletter to vet a surgery center before you agree to put your health in their hands.

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## Investigations Raise Oversight Concerns at Surgery Centers



Ambulatory surgery centers perform millions of outpatient surgeries a year, most with little complication. However, new investigations are raising concerns about lax reporting and regulation at some of these centers. Routine procedures such as tonsillectomies or colonoscopies have resulted in devastating and sometimes fatal consequences for patients. *You should know* why this is happening and what you can do to reduce the chance of complications from an outpatient surgery.

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### BY THE NUMBERS

## Over 50%

Over half of all outpatient surgeries in 2014 were performed at an ambulatory surgery center, up from only

### VIDEO BOOKMARK

#### ***Take Care: Surgery Centers in America***

Investigators, patients and families talk about how routine procedures performed at a surgery center



32 percent in 2005.

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became a medical nightmare.

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## THE DOCKET

- CHECK OUT OUR BETTER HEALTH CARE NEWSLETTER.
- LATEST NEWS FROM OUR PATIENT SAFETY BLOG
- HEALTH CARE ADVOCATES' POWER KIT
- MALPRACTICE A-Z: ANSWERS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS
- THE LAWSUIT PROCESS STEP BY STEP

## ACCREDITED SURGERY CENTERS

Here is a list of the approved surgery center accrediting organizations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS).

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