

METHODOLOGY

# America's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers 2025



# Methodology – America’s Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers 2025

## Summary of the project

- The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of **America’s Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers** awards the leading 650 ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) in the U.S. based on quality of care, performance data, patient experience, and peer recommendations, relative to in-state competition.
- Ambulatory surgery centers included operate exclusively for the purpose of providing surgical services to patients not requiring hospitalization and in which expected duration of services would not exceed 24 hours following an admission<sup>(1)(2)</sup>.
- Over 5,000 ambulatory surgery centers were analyzed, resulting in a varying number of ASCs awarded per state: California had 118 ambulatory surgery centers awarded, while Mississippi is represented with 5 ambulatory surgery centers. Additionally, **standout specialties** were highlighted.
- The list is based on **four data sources**:
  1. **National Online Survey – Recommendations and quality assessment from peers:** Medical professionals and staff working in the management/administration in ASCs were asked to recommend leading centers in their respective U.S. state and rate their quality of care.
  2. **CMS Measures** based on the Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting (ASCQR) Program by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
  3. **Patient Experience data** based on the Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and System (OAS CAHPS) by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
  4. **Accreditation data** based on the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC).

2 | **Note:** (1) An unanticipated medical circumstance may arise that would require an ASC patient to stay in the ASC longer than 24 hours, but such situations should be rare.

**Source:** (2) [U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)

# New features and changes in the 2025 edition

- The following list provides a brief overview of all **changes in this year's edition** compared to the America's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers 2024 ranking:
  - **Two new data sources** were added to the scoring model:
    - Data based on the Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery CAHPS (**OAS CAHPS**) by CMS.
    - Accreditations based on Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (**AAAHC**).
  - **Increased CMS Measures weighting:** This year the weighting of the CMS Measures pillar was increased from 33% to 45% in the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on the on the medical key performance indicators.
  - A new **CMS Measure** was included in the analysis: **Facility-Level 7-Day Hospital Visits after General Surgery Procedures**
  - **COVID-19 Score:** The COVID-19 Score is no longer included as part of the quality score.
  - Inclusion of **standout specialties:** This year, the option of recommending the following standout specialties was included in the national online survey: **Orthopedics, ophthalmology** and/or **gastroenterology**.

# Ambulatory surgery centers from 25 U.S. states and 4 regions were eligible for the ranking

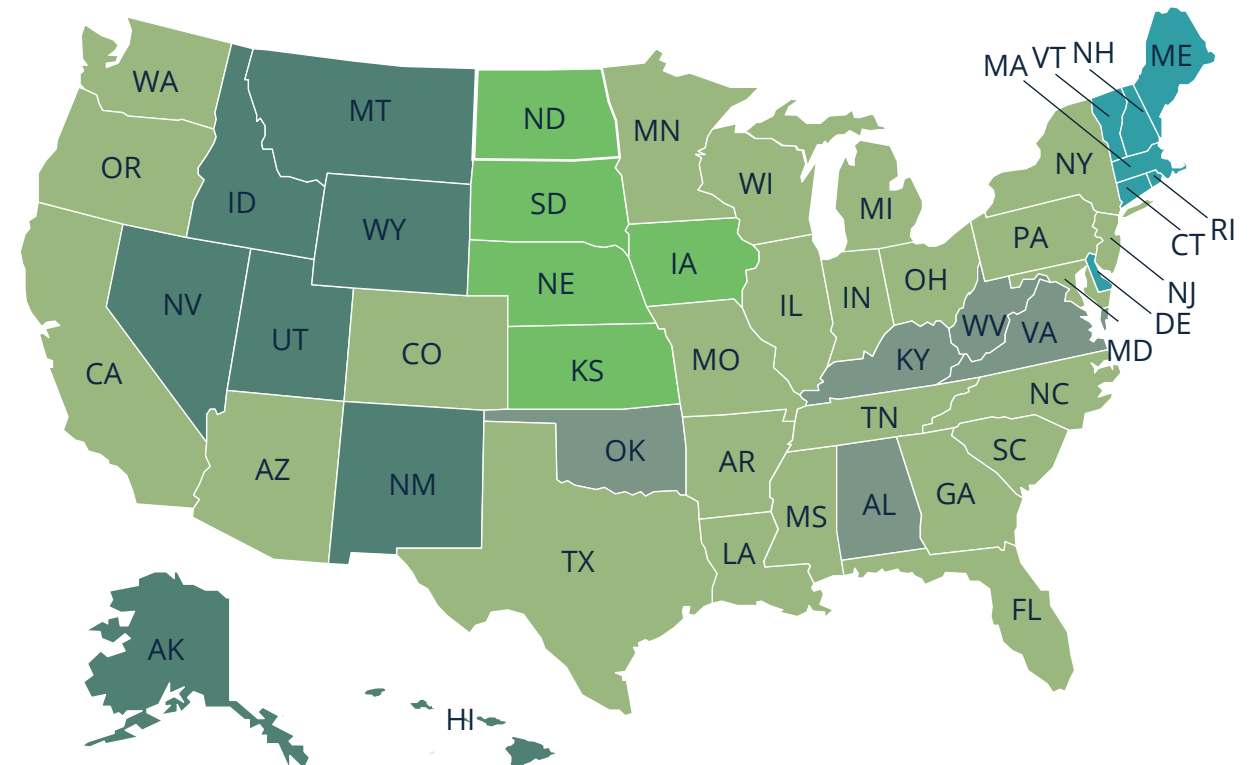
## Geographical distribution

- Ambulatory surgery centers from the **25 states with the highest number of these centers**<sup>(1)</sup> were included in the survey:

- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Washington
- Wisconsin

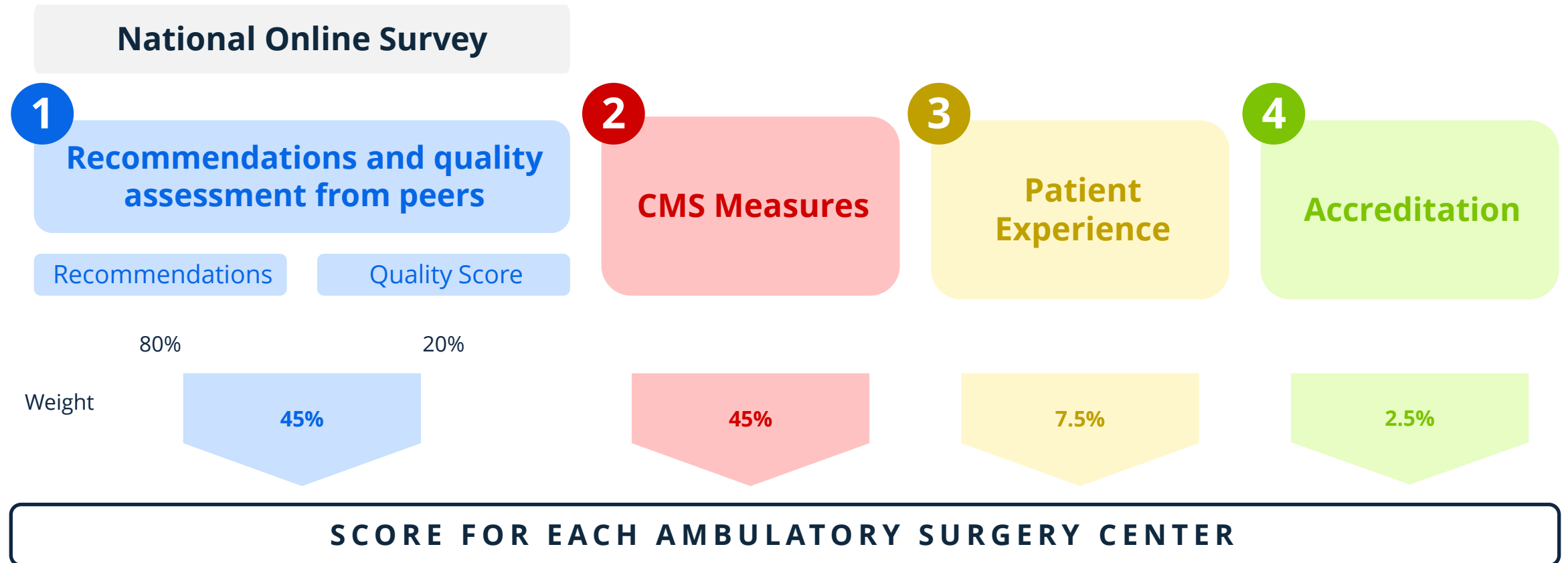
- All remaining states were divided into **4 regions** for the survey:

- **Northeast:** Connecticut, Washington D.C., Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
- **Midwest:** Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- **West:** Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming
- **South:** Alabama, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Virginia, West Virginia



# A score was calculated for each ambulatory surgery center

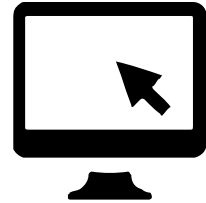
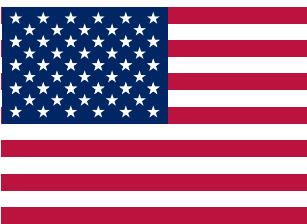
Scoring model



Medical experts with knowledge about ambulatory surgery centers were surveyed about the best facilities in their state

# 1 National Online Survey - Recommendations from peers

From June to August 2024, Statista invited thousands of health care professionals with knowledge about ambulatory surgery centers to an online survey.



**Online survey by state** among medical professionals (medical doctors/surgeons, registered nurses, nursing assistants, therapists) and managers/administrators working ambulatory surgery centers. Participants were invited via e-mail. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com.

Participants were asked to recommend notable ambulatory surgery centers **in their respective state**. Recommendations for own employer/ambulatory surgery center were not allowed.

The recommendations were used to determine the **recommendations part of the reputation score**. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was considered, and participants could name **standout specialties**: Orthopedics, ophthalmology and/or gastroenterology.

**RECOMMENDATIONS CONSTITUTE 80% OF THE REPUTATION SCORE**

# A quality score was calculated for each recommended ambulatory surgery center

Quality Score based on quality dimensions

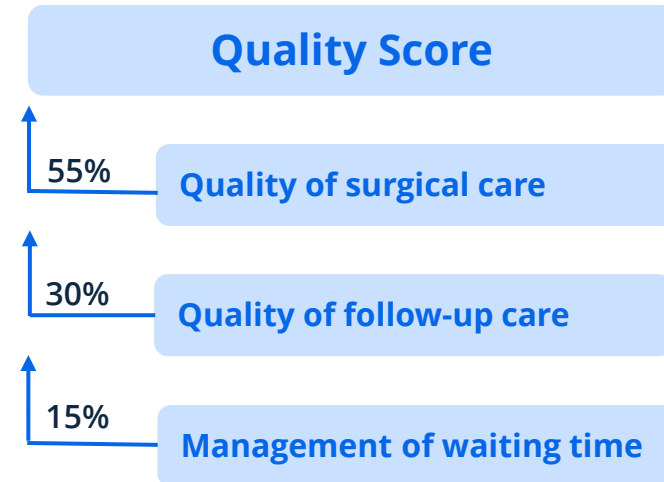


## Calculation of Quality Score

- For each recommended ambulatory surgery center participants were asked to rate **three quality dimensions** on a scale from 1 ("Poor") to 10 ("Excellent"):
  - Quality of surgical care
  - Quality of follow-up care
  - Management of waiting time
- A Quality Score was assigned to each facility based on the **weighted average** of these ratings.



## Quality Score weights



**THE QUALITY SCORE CONSTITUTES 20% OF THE REPUTATION SCORE**

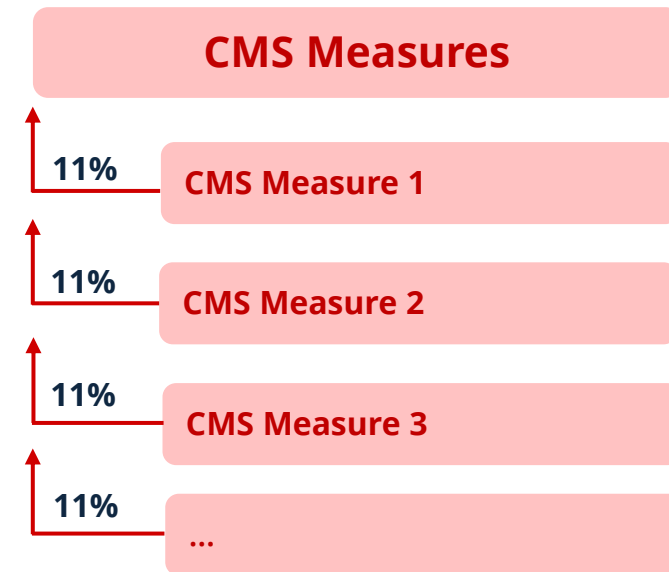
# A CMS Measure Score was calculated for each ambulatory surgery center

CMS Measure Score

## 2 CMS Measures

- The **U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** provides data on ASCs in the **Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting**<sup>(1)(2)</sup>
- The following **measures** are included:
  - Measure 1: Endoscopy/Polyp Surveillance: Appropriate Follow-up Interval for Normal Colonoscopy in Average Risk Patients
  - Measure 2: Cataracts - Improvement in Patient's Visual Function within 90 Days Following Cataract Surgery
  - Measure 3: Facility 7-Day Risk-Standardized Hospital Visit Rate after Outpatient Colonoscopy
  - Measure 4: Normothermia Outcome
  - Measure 5: Unplanned Anterior Vitrectomy
  - Measure 6: Hospital Visits after Orthopedic ASC Procedures
  - Measure 7: Hospital Visits after Urology ASC Procedures
  - Measure 8: COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel
  - Measure 9: Facility-Level 7-Day Hospital Visits after General Surgery Procedures

## CMS Measures weights



**THE CMS MEASURES SCORE CONSTITUTES 45% OF THE TOTAL SCORE**



# Publicly available patient experience data was used as an additional element of the scoring model

## Patient Experience Score

### 3 Patient Experience

- Publicly available data from the **Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (OAS CAHPS)** survey was used to analyze patient experience<sup>(1)(2)</sup>
- Survey topics associated to patient care and satisfaction included:
  - Quality of care
  - Cleanliness of the facility
  - Communication from staff
  - Patient rating of the facility as a whole
  - Whether or not the patient would recommend the facility to others

**THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE SCORE CONSTITUTES 7.5% OF THE TOTAL SCORE**

Furthermore, the AAAHC Accreditation was used as an additional element of the scoring model

Accreditation Score

## 4 AAAHC Accreditation

- **The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)** is an organization that provides accreditation services to various types of ambulatory health care facilities in the United States and internationally.<sup>(1)</sup>
- The AAAHC **sets standards** for and **assesses the quality of care provided in outpatient settings**, which include facilities where surgeries, procedures, and other health services are performed without the need for an overnight hospital stay.<sup>(2)</sup>
- The following accreditation/certification programs were included into the ranking:
  - Ambulatory Accreditation
  - Medicare Deemed Status Accreditation
  - Advanced Orthopaedic Certification

**THE AAAHC ACCREDITATION CONSTITUTES 2.5% OF THE TOTAL SCORE**

# As a result, the leading 650 ambulatory surgery centers were awarded

Final ranking by state/region

## California

Rank	Center	City	Standout Specialty
1	Cedars Sinai - 90210 Surgery Medical Center	Beverly Hills	Gastroenterology, Orthopedics
2	SCA Health - UCSD Center for Surgery of Encinitas	Encinitas	
3	UCLA Health - Westwood Ambulatory Surgery Center	Los Angeles	
4	Sutter Health - Surgery Center Palo Alto	Palo Alto	
5	Sutter Health - Surgery Center Mountain View	Mountain View	

[...]

## Florida

Rank	Center	City	Standout Specialty
1	Coral Gables Surgery Center	Miami	
2	Mayo Clinic - Jacksonville ASC for G.i.	Jacksonville	Gastroenterology
3	The Surgery Center at TGH Brandon Healthplex	Tampa	
4	Baptist Health South Florida - Endoscopy Center - Galloway South	Miami	Gastroenterology
5	USF Health - TGH Surgery Center at Morsani	Tampa	

[...]

**LEADING AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS WERE AWARDED PER STATE/REGION**

# America's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers partner network

Overview of involved parties

**Newsweek**

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# Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of ambulatory surgery centers that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, reflects the last 12 months only. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about ambulatory surgery centers or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of ambulatory surgery centers that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.