

## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO THE HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION**

Same Day SurgiClinic in Fall River is a multi-specialty surgery center which has been serving our community for almost 30 years. This surgicenter was the first in the state and did go through the DON process to obtain our clinic license.

Through the years we have given our patients an alternative for which many have been grateful for. Our center is as well equipped as a hospital, the patients find it very convenient and the environment inside the center is less stressful than a hospital. The patients also benefit from lower co-pays and out of pocket costs than the local hospitals.

We have been beneficial to the overall healthcare system by providing quality care at a lower cost:

Surgery centers saved the Medicare program \$7.5 billion between 2008 and 2011, and could contribute to more than \$57 billion in additional savings over the next decade, according to a University of California-Berkeley study.

We strongly feel that patients should have a choice on where they want their procedure to be performed.

Answers to questions:

1. a. We are joining larger group purchasing organizations to get better prices on supplies and instrumentation.
- b. The biggest opportunity to improve quality and efficiency has been our recent move to obtaining patient's medical history online through our website before their date of surgery. This new interactive software gathers additional pertinent medical history and gives our staff a chance to better evaluate the patient before they come in the door.
- c. I would say the online medical history described above.
- d. We have not asked a payer for an increase in fees in the last 2 years.

2. We feel that ambulatory surgery centers have not been the cause of this growth; quite frankly we are a part of the solution to the problem.
3. We have had no success. The local health systems have not been supportive of a freestanding ASC being included in an integrated system.
4. We are limited by the lack in numbers of freestanding ASC's in the state to be effective. The moratorium on new centers makes us a nonfactor.
5. We provide and bill for just one service, a facility fee for the use of our center. We are able to compare our financial benchmarks with other national surgery centers.
6. Our center evaluates the insurance benefits for each patient as best we can and communicates before the day of surgery what costs are the responsibility of the patient. We are participating with insurance companies to provide the information the payer needs to in turn relay to their subscribers.
7. We do not see any reference to freestanding surgery centers. We are being left out of the equation. We do agree with the Attorney General that the impact of provider alignments on health care costs and quality should be measured and monitored – particularly alignments that may affect access to care, limit the effectiveness of other approaches to lowering costs, or enhance providers' market clout. The federal government through Medicare sees the value of our services; we hope Massachusetts will as well.

The signatory is legally authorized and empowered to represent the named organization for the purposes of this testimony, and that the testimony is signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.

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