



Certificate of Need Program  
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## **Ambulatory Surgical Facility (ASF) Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) Certificate of Need Definitions**

The Certificate of Need (CN) Program will use the information you provide to determine if your project meets the applicable review criteria. These criteria are included in state law and rules. Revised Code of Washington [\(RCW\) 70.38](#) and Washington Administrative Code [\(WAC\) 246-310](#).

**“Ambulatory surgical facility” or “ASF”** means any free-standing entity, including an ambulatory surgery center that operates primarily for the purpose of performing surgical procedures to treat patients not requiring hospitalization. This term does not include a facility in the offices of private physicians or dentists, whether for individual or group practice, if the privilege of using the facility is not extended to physicians or dentists outside the individual or group practice. [WAC 246-310-010\(5\)](#)

**“Ambulatory surgical center” or “ASC”** is also a term used interchangeably with “ASF” to describe a facility that provides ambulatory surgical procedures. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services state that an ASC is a distinct entity that operates exclusively for the purpose of furnishing outpatient surgical services to patients.

**“Ambulatory surgical facility” or “ASF”** as defined by licensing rules, and relied on by the CN Program for consistency, means any distinct entity that operates for the primary purpose of providing specialty or multispecialty outpatient surgical services in which patients are admitted to and discharged from the facility within twenty-four hours and do not require inpatient hospitalization, whether or not the facility is certified under Title XVIII of the federal Social Security Act. An ambulatory surgical facility includes one or more surgical suites that are adjacent to and within the same building as, but not in, the office of a practitioner in an individual or group practice, if the primary purpose of the one or more surgical suites is to provide specialty or multispecialty outpatient surgical services, irrespective of the types of anesthesia administered in the one or more surgical suites. An ambulatory surgical facility that is adjacent to and within the same building as the office of a practitioner in an individual or group practice may include a surgical suite that shares a reception area, restroom, waiting room, or wall with the office of the practitioner in an individual or group practice. [WAC 246-330-010\(5\)](#)

**“Assumptions,”** as referred to in this application, means the basis for any projection you provide.

**“Invasive procedure”** as defined by licensing rules means a procedure involving puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of an instrument or foreign material into the body including, but not limited to, percutaneous aspirations, biopsies, cardiac and vascular catheterizations, endoscopies, angioplasties, and implantations. Excluded are venipuncture and intravenous therapy. [WAC 246-330-010\(20\)](#)

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**“Operating room”** as defined by licensing rules means a room intended for invasive procedures.  
[WAC 246-330-010\(29\)](#)

**“Procedure room”** for Certificate of Need purposes has the same meaning as “operating room,” but is often used by providers in reference to rooms dedicated to specific procedure types, such as endoscopy or pain management.

**“Person”** means an individual, a trust or estate, a partnership, any public or private corporation (including associations, joint stock companies, and insurance companies), the state, or a political subdivision or instrumentality of the state, including a municipal corporation or a hospital district.  
[WAC 246-310-010\(42\)](#)