

SpineMed SPECIALISTS, L.C.

REPORT

Comparative Cost-Effectiveness and Value Analysis of Spine Procedures: Ambulatory Surgery Center vs. Hospital



In recent years, the field of spine surgery has witnessed a paradigm shift towards minimally invasive procedures. These techniques, performed in an outpatient setting such as our ASC, have shown tremendous potential to improve patient satisfaction, reduce recovery times, and enhance overall quality of care.

— continued on page 2

Practice of interventional spinal diagnostics and minimally invasive treatment of spinal origin pain.

www.spinemedspecialists.com

We are pleased to share an insightful analysis comparing the cost-effectiveness and value of spine procedures performed at our Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) versus those conducted in a hospital setting. As advocates for delivering exceptional care while optimizing healthcare resources, it is essential to explore the economic aspects of healthcare delivery without compromising patient outcomes.



Neurosurgery & Pain Management
Thomas Frimpong, DO • Rodney Jones, MD

825



Comparative Cost-Effectiveness and Value Analysis of Spine Procedures: Ambulatory Surgery Center vs. Hospital *(cont.)*



When evaluating the cost-effectiveness and value of spine procedures, several factors come into play:

■ **Procedure Costs:** Spine procedures performed at ASCs typically offer cost advantages compared to hospitals. Factors contributing to lower costs include:

- Reduced facility fees.
- Decreased use of inpatient resources.
- Optimized patient flow within the ASC environment.

■ **Reduced Complications:** ASCs have been associated with lower rates of hospital-acquired infections and complications than hospitals, resulting in potential cost reductions associated with postoperative care.

■ **Outcomes:** Research has indicated that the clinical outcomes of spine procedures performed at ASCs are comparable to those achieved in hospitals, highlighting the quality and safety of ASC-based care.

■ **Operating Room Efficiency:** By design, ASCs maximize efficiency and streamline operations. This results in shorter turnaround times between surgeries, increasing patient throughput and lowering costs per case.

■ **Reduced Length of Stay:** Minimally invasive

spine procedures at ASCs allow patients to return home on the same day of surgery, avoiding the need for overnight hospital stays. Same-day surgery reduces healthcare expenses and minimizes the risk of hospital-acquired infections and other associated complications.

■ **Improved Patient Experience:** ASCs provide a patient-centered approach, emphasizing personalized care in a comfortable and familiar environment. This patient-centric approach promotes positive experiences, improving outcomes and reducing long-term healthcare costs.

■ **Resource Utilization:** Performing spine procedures in an ASC can preserve hospital resources such as inpatient beds and intensive care units for patients with more complex medical needs. This optimization of resources ensures efficient utilization of healthcare facilities and cost savings.

■ **Value-Based Care:** The focus on value-based care has gained prominence in healthcare—ASCs, emphasizing delivering high-quality care at reduced costs. Value-based care strives to provide the best patient outcomes while optimizing resource allocation, and ASCs play a vital role in achieving this balance.

ASCs typically have lower payment rates for the same procedures than Hospital-based outpatient departments (HOPDs). Medicare payments for procedures performed in ASCs are reported to be approximately 53 percent of the amount paid to HOPDs.

The cost disparities between ASCs and HOPDs can significantly affect the healthcare system. According to a report from the Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley, procedures conducted in ASCs in 2011 resulted in a cost savings of \$2.3 billion for the Medicare program. There is a potential to save approximately \$57.6 billion over the next ten years. These cost savings have the potential to benefit patients by lowering copayments and potentially reducing commercial insurance rates as well.



It is important to note that while ASCs offer cost advantages for specific spine procedures, patient selection and clinical appropriateness remain vital factors. Our commitment to patient safety and outcomes guides our decision-making process, ensuring we treat appropriate cases at our ASC. In contrast, we refer complex or high-risk cases to the hospital setting.

We believe in transparent and collaborative healthcare discussions, and evaluating cost-effectiveness and value is integral to that conversation. As healthcare evolves, we continuously analyze data, outcomes, and patient feedback to refine our practices and provide the highest level of care at optimal value.

If you have any questions or want more information on the cost-effectiveness and value analysis of spine procedures performed at our ASC, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to address any concerns and provide the information you need to make informed decisions about your healthcare.

Thank you for your continued trust in our ASC as we strive to deliver exceptional spine care while optimizing value. ■

Providing world class interventional spinal diagnostic and treatment services in a compassionate state of the art environment.

Get to know ...

SpineMed Specialists (Pain Management Associates, L.C.)

Doctors Rodney Jones and Thomas Frimpong along with the dedicated staff of nurses, x-ray technologists, and office management personnel comprise SpineMed Specialists and Pain Management Associates. Dr. Frimpong is board certified in neurosurgery with fellowship training in minimally invasive and complex spine surgery. Dr. Jones is a board certified anesthesiologist with additional certifications in Pain Management and Addiction Medicine. Dr. Jones is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Anesthesia Department. Dr. Frimpong served as an attending physician at Bassett Healthcare – Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons where he completed his fellowship training. For three years he served as attending neurosurgeon at Trinity Health in Minot, ND.

Dr. Jones has practiced pain medicine for over thirtyfive years and is an active member of the Spine Intervention Society where he serves as a Master Instructor.

Dr. Jones was named “Instructor of the Year” for 2019. Dr. Rodney Jones from a group of over 60 instructors mostly from large academic teaching institutions. He has published in peer reviewed journals and has authored book chapters.

Dr. Frimpong offers a complete array of neurological surgery procedures with emphasis on minimally invasive and complex spine surgeries. The physicians and staff are dedicated to the safe and accurate diagnosis and effective treatment of



Dr. Rodney Jones



Dr. Thomas Frimpong

chronic pain and disability of the spine using up to date, evidence-based techniques and surgical interventions when indicated.

SpineMed Specialists and Pain Management Associates provide world class services for workers compensation, all major insurances, Medicare, self-pay and “Boutique Health” services to improve function and reduce pain and disability in a compassionate, timely and cost effective manner. SpineMed Specialists and Pain Management Associates strive to be the patient advocate and payor’s insider for the best possible outcome. ■

For referrals or more information contact:
316-733-9393 • SpineMedSpecialists.com