



## FEDERATED AMBULATORY SURGERY ASSOCIATION

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January 5, 2006

Robert Pokras  
Chief, Hospital Care Statistics Branch  
National Center for Health Statistics  
6525 Belcrest Rd #956  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Dear Mr. Pokras,

The Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (FASA), the nation's largest association of ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), is pleased to endorse ASC participation in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery (NSAS), which will be taking place in 2006.

FASA recognizes the importance of collecting data on surgery done in ASCs and hospitals in the United States. We encourage all ASCs to participate in this valuable survey as information from the NSAS will be used by ASCs, hospitals, federal and state governments, researchers in public health and health services research, the news media, medical product manufacturers and others.

Along with data from NCHS's National Hospital Discharge Survey, the NSAS will also provide a more complete picture of all surgical care in the United States. To be able to predict trends and changes in the delivery of ambulatory surgical services, we encourage ASCs to participate in this survey, which was last done in 1994-1996. The data from the survey will be of higher quality and greater value with strong ASC participation.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bryant,  
Executive Vice President