



National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Room 3409
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

NSAS
Endorsing Organizations

Dear _____ :

American Association
of Ambulatory
Surgery Centers
(AAASC)

The purpose of this letter is to request your participation in the National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery. As you are aware, ambulatory surgery represents a fast growing and significant portion of surgery in the United States. In 2002 ambulatory surgery accounted for over 67 percent of all surgery in the U.S. and, as medical technology progresses, an even greater proportion of surgery performed in ambulatory settings is anticipated. Unfortunately, there is a large gap in detailed patient information with respect to outpatient procedures. Valid data about ambulatory surgery is important to make national and local decisions for the allocation of resources and training of medical manpower.

American College
of Surgeons
(ACS)

Recognizing this lack of vital information, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is conducting a National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery. The study, which was previously conducted from 1994 to 1996, has received the endorsement, participation and advice of professional groups and associations involved in this field. The study is authorized by Title 42, United States Code, Section 242k. Your participation in the study is voluntary and there are no penalties for refusing. As one of the facilities selected in our national sample, your participation is essential to the success of the study.

American Health Information
Management Association
(AHIMA)

American Academy of
Ophthalmology
(AAO)

Please be assured that confidentiality of patients and facilities will be held in the strictest confidence and information used only for statistical purposes as required by Section 308(d) of the Public Health Service Act [42 United States Code 242m (d) and Section 513 of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (PL-107-347)].* All published summaries will be presented in such a way that no individual facility or patient can be identified. Also be assured that there are several ways that the Privacy Rule (as mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA]) allows you to participate. Disclosures of patient data are permitted for public health purposes and for research that has been approved by an Institutional Review Board – both of which apply to this survey.

Federated Ambulatory
Surgery Association
(FASA)

Society for Ambulatory
Anesthesia
(SAMBA)

You may have questions about your rights as a participant in this research study. If so, please call the Research Ethics Review Board at the National Center for Health Statistics, toll-free, at 1-800-223-8118. Please leave a brief message with your name and phone number and say that you are calling about Protocol #2005-11. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

We would like to discuss the participation of your facility in the study. Within the next several days, a representative of the U.S. Census Bureau, acting as an agent of the NCHS, will telephone you to arrange for an appointment. We have enclosed a packet of materials that includes a description of the study, a brochure on the study, and a copy of a report from the 1996 National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery. Your cooperation in this study will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Sondik, Ph.D.
Director

Enclosures

* Provisions of the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act provide for a felony conviction and/or fine of up to \$250,000 if this promise is violated.