

Please contact us at any time at (319) 398-6703 with any questions about scheduling your surgery. Contact us at (319) 369-4505 to find out the cost of your procedure. We are happy to assist you.

# CONSUMER AWARENESS

## What having your surgery done outside a hospital could really cost you

As consumers absorb more of the financial burden of their healthcare due to higher out-of-pocket insurance plans, many are “shopping around” for the best value when they need surgery. While one aspect of value is pricing, it’s important to take into account other considerations that you can’t place a price on — like high quality and patient safety. After all, it’s your health.

Where and when you have surgery is your choice. Your surgeon should offer options so you can select the location that is the best for you. Making a decision based solely on an organization’s pricing can be misleading, since the only real way to know what your out-of-pocket costs will be is to check with your insurance company for information about deductibles, copayments and coinsurance.

Based on publicly available pricing information, there are many instances where the patient’s out-of-pocket expenses at Mercy are less than or comparable to the cost of an outpatient surgical center. And, because Mercy performs more surgeries in Cedar Rapids than anyone else, patients have added peace of mind.

Here are some things you should consider when deciding where to have surgery:

- 1) Safety and quality.** Hospitals regularly report and share quality information around patient outcomes, complications and other safety-related information. You can see how Mercy stacks up at *Medicare’s HospitalCompare.hhs.gov* or *mercyare.org/quality*.
- 2) Surgery is serious and complications can arise.** Picking a facility that has lower complications is a good start. But also make sure you understand how equipped the facility is to handle an emergency. In the event of certain complications, surgical facilities not connected to a hospital may need to take patients by ambulance to a hospital for advanced intervention and follow-up care.
- 3) Cost to you.** A patient’s out-of-pocket costs are not based on flat fees. They are largely based on the patient’s insurance plan and what selections they made within that plan, including the deductible, copayment and coinsurance.
- 4) Access and scheduling.** Mercy offers easy scheduling to our many surgical suites, allowing us to offer more availability. If you feel the choices presented to you by your surgeon are limited or you are not given a choice, it may help to ask more questions. It may be that your surgeon’s schedule is limiting your options.

Recognized by CareChex, Mercy is

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in Iowa for Overall Hospital Care

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in Linn County for Overall Medical Care

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in Linn County for Spinal Surgery

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in Iowa for Major Orthopedic Surgery

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