



CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Outpatient Surgery Services in California: The Consumer Perspective

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Why Is this Topic Important to Consumers?

- Three-fold increase in lower-risk medical/surgical procedures in outpatient settings (20-60%) in past 20 years
- Wide range of higher-risk procedures too: heart stents, hysterectomies, back surgeries, gall bladder removal, weight loss, cosmetic surgeries
- Benefit designs may incentivize use of outpatient surgical settings
- Consumers want **safe care**; affordability and convenience are factors too, but safety is #1

High-profile News Coverage of Outpatient Surgery Centers

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Joan Rivers, who was reportedly undergoing an endoscopy, went into cardiac arrest at an ambulatory surgery center in New York and died several days later.

Getty Images

Joan Rivers' death highlights risks for seniors in outpatient surgery

By Sabriya Rice | September 13, 2014

In the wake of comedian Joan Rivers' death following an [ambulatory](#) surgery procedure, patient-safety leaders and some physicians are calling on outpatient surgery centers to more carefully select elderly patients for surgery and are urging patients to scrutinize the qualifications of physicians in these centers.

Another patient dies after Lap-Band surgery

Paula Rojeski, 55, of Orange County died shortly after undergoing Lap-Band surgery at a clinic affiliated with the 1-800-GET-THIN ad campaign, according to records. The coroner has not determined the cause of death.

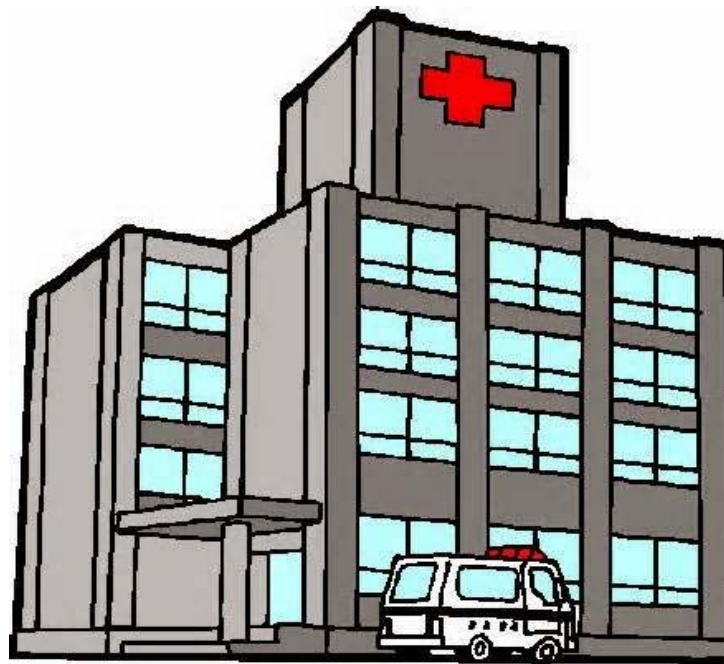
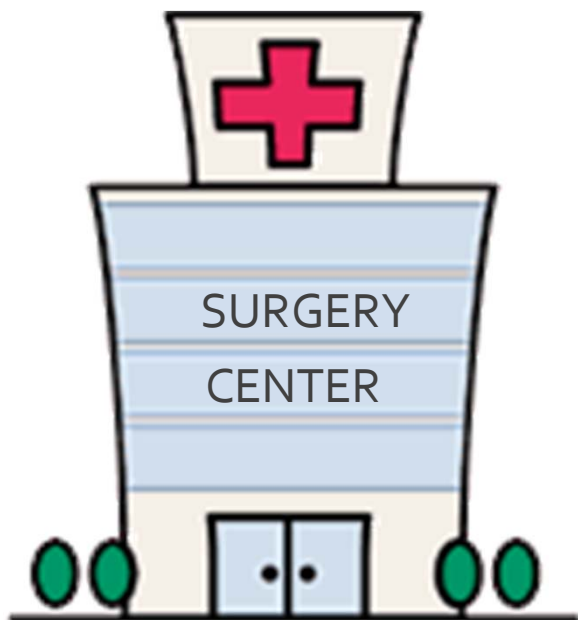
September 23, 2011 | By Stuart Pfeifer | Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

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An Orange County woman has died after weight-loss surgery at a West Hills outpatient clinic, the fifth person to die shortly after Lap-Band procedures at clinics affiliated with the 1-800-GET-THIN advertising campaign since 2009, according to lawsuits, coroner's records and interviews.

A Variety of “Outpatient Settings”

Different ownership and operating models affect regulatory structure



Result: No Uniform Oversight/Regulation

Big gaps in public data on quality, safety and price



Publicly Available Data in California

	Outpatient Centers	Hospitals
Medical Errors	No	Yes
Infection Rates	No	Yes
Quality Data	No	Yes
Patient Satisfaction	No	Yes

Transparent Information on Outpatient Settings Is Key – For Consumers and Policymakers



Thank You!

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