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

Joan Rivers' death highlights risks for seniors in outpatient surgery

By Sabrina 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outpatient Centers</th>
<th>Hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Errors</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection Rates</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Data</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient Satisfaction</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transparent Information on Outpatient Settings Is Key – For Consumers and Policymakers
Thank You!

For more information, contact:

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