



MARYLAND
Health Care
Commission

Ruxton Surgicenter LLC

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREESTANDING
AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITY
in BALTIMORE COUNTY

MAY 21, 2026



ASC vs. ASF: OR Capacity

Ambulatory Surgery Center
(ASC)

– Two or fewer operating rooms

Ambulatory Surgery Facility
(ASF)

–three or more operating rooms



Project Need

- ▶ Increase capacity to meet rising demand for outpatient surgical services and to shift appropriate cases from UM SJMC to a lower-cost, ambulatory setting.
- ▶ Replace Ruxton's outdated facility with a modern ambulatory surgery center designed to improve efficiency, and support advanced technology.



Ruxton SurgiCenter LLC

Ambulatory surgery center is located in Baltimore County

- Established in 2005
- Ownership:
 - University of Maryland Saint Joseph Medical Center (70%)
 - Ruxton Pain Group (9.96%)
 - Ruxton Orthopaedic Group, LLC (20.03%)
- Services: Orthopedics, Pain Management and Joint Replacement



Proposed Project

- Lease space in a building to be used for ambulatory surgery located adjacent to UM SJMC and fit out approximately 22,145 square feet of space.
- Total Budget: \$16 million
- Upon project completion, the applicant will establish an ASF with five operating rooms and two procedure rooms.

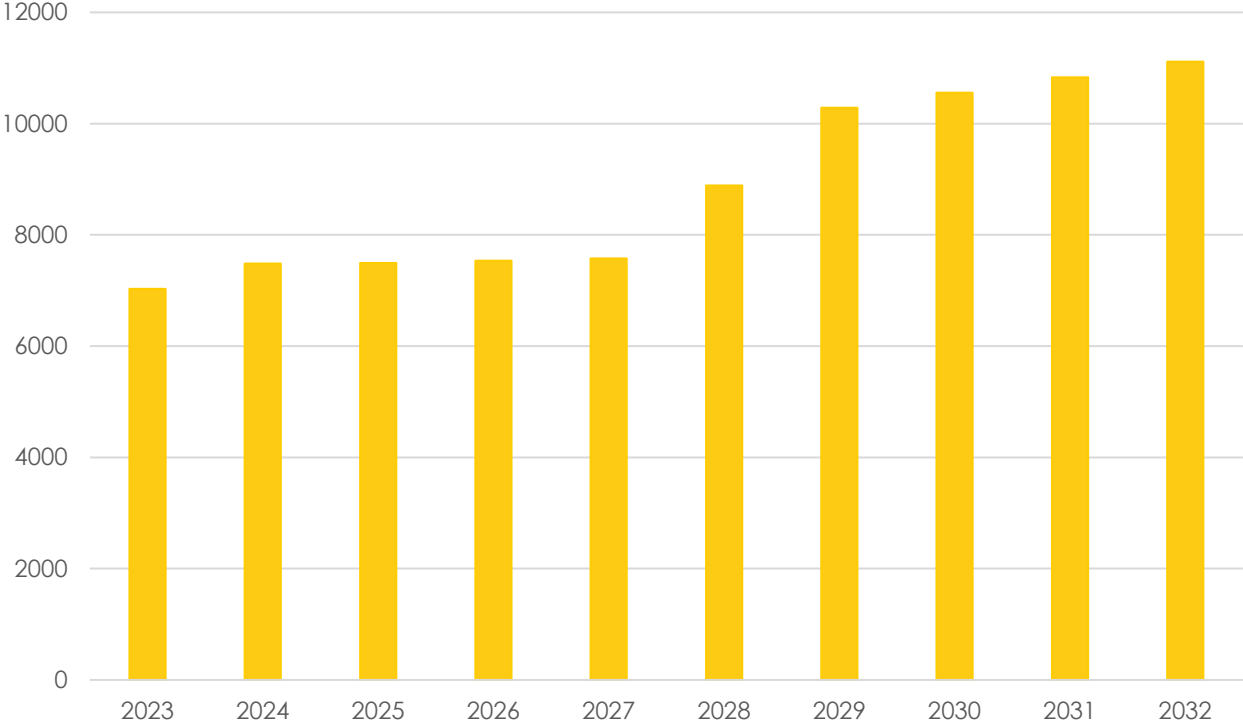
Proposed Project Cost



- Capital Cost: \$16 million funded by \$1.4 million in cash and \$15.1 million in bank loans
- Incremental Workforce Cost: Adding 10.3 FTEs at a cost \$420,562 (21 physicians will perform surgical services)
 - ▶ Anticipated start of operations is 2nd Quarter of 2028

Growth Projections for Operating and Procedure Rooms

Total Cases



Ruxton SurgiCenter

2023 – 2028

- 2 Operating Rooms
- 2 Procedure Rooms

2028 -2032

- 5 Operating Rooms
- 2 Procedure Rooms
- Future Room (Shelled)

58% Increase in the number of surgical cases from 2023 to 2032

Staff Analysis



- ▶ Project is consistent with the standards in the State Health Plan for Facilities and Services – General Surgical Services, COMAR 10.24.11
- ▶ Project meets the eight Certificate of Need review criteria



Areas of Concern

- ▶ **Annual Charity Care:** \$140K budgeted, based on 2023 Freestanding Ambulatory Facility survey benchmarks (no planned annual increases).
- ▶ **Data Collection:** Patient race/ethnicity not currently tracked
- ▶ **Payor Mix (Historic & Projected):** ~48% Medicare, ~2% Medicaid
- ▶ **Health Equity:** The applicant does not currently collect patient-level demographic information related to race, ethnicity, or income.

Standard/Criterion	Conditions for Approval
10.24.11.05A – General Standards	Ruxton shall provide its patients with an estimate of out-of-pocket charges prior to arrival for surgery.
10.24.11D(1) – General Standards	Ruxton must submit a CON application if they intend to utilize the designated “future room” as an operating room in accordance with COMAR 10.24.11 D(1) and obtain approval from the Commission prior to such use. Alternatively, if the applicant elects to use the “future room” as a procedure room, the applicant shall submit a determination of coverage letter to the Commission for review and confirmation prior to initiating such use.

Standard/Criterion	Conditions for Approval
10.24.11.05A (3)- Charity Care	<p>Ruxton shall commit to providing charitable surgical services to indigent patients that are equivalent to at least the average amount of charity care provided by ambulatory surgical facilities in the most recent year reported by the Maryland Health Care Commission, measured as a percentage of total operating expenses.</p> <p>Ruxton shall post copies of the financial policy and the financial assistance application on its website prior to first use.</p>
10.24.11.05A (4)- Quality Care	<p>Ruxton must receive accreditation by the Joint Commission, the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), or the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities or another accreditation organization recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as acceptable for obtaining Medicare certification and approved by the State of Maryland within two years of first use.</p>

Standard/Criterion

Conditions for Approval

10.24.01.08G(3)(g)-
Health Equity

For three years following first use, Ruxton shall submit annual reports to the Commission including:

- **Patient demographics** (age, race/ethnicity)
- **Insurance type** and employment status
- **Charity care** volume and value
- **Transportation assistance** requests
- **Language needs** — limited english proficient patients and interpreter requests (including ASL)
- **Quality, access, and outcomes indicators** from the QAPI program, including stratified results and improvement initiatives

Standard/Criterion

Conditions for Approval

10.24.01.08G(3)(g)-
Health Equity

Ruxton will maintain processes that support equitable access and improved outcomes:

- Verify transportation support and confirm responsible adult/ride before surgery; provide assistance when requested and legally permissible.
- Assess language preference for all patients.
- Provide real-time interpreter services for patients who prefer a non-English language.
- Deliver pre-operative education and discharge instructions in the patient's preferred language, written at a 5th–6th grade reading level.

Standard/Criterion

10.24.01.08G(3)(g)-
Health Equity

Conditions for Approval

Quarterly QAPI Review:

- Stratify indicators for quality, access, and outcomes.
- Stratify by race, ethnicity, age, payer source, and other sociodemographic factors.
- Identify trends and opportunities for improvement.
- Report findings to leadership and incorporate into improvement initiatives.

Reporting & Improvement Actions:

- Present quarterly findings to leadership.
- Develop process improvement initiatives, including actions addressing identified disparities.
- Include all findings and initiatives in the annual Commission report.



Recommended Decision

APPROVE the Certificate of Need
with Five Conditions