

Suggested International terminology and definitions

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TERMINOLOGY

Ambulatory: Synonyms: Day. Same day. Day only.
Time frame - up to 8 h - no overnight stay.

Extended Recovery: Synonyms: 23 h. Overnight stay.

Time frame - over 8 h - under 24 h.

Short Stay:
Time frame - 24–72 h.

DEFINITIONS - GENERAL

Surgery/Office: A medical practitioner's professional premises.

Outpatient Department: Section(s) of a hospital, public or private, for the treatment of outpatients.

Outpatient: A patient treated solely in the outpatient department of a hospital, public or private.

Inpatient: A patient admitted into a hospital, public or private, for a stay of 24 h or more.

DEFINITIONS - SURGERY/OFFICE OR OUTPATIENT

Surgery/Office Procedure: An operation or procedure carried out in a medical practitioner's professional premises which provides an appropriately designed, equipped and serviced room(s) for its safe performance.

Outpatient Procedure: An operation or procedure carried out in the outpatient department of a hospital, public or private, which does not require inpatient, or ambulatory surgery unit services or supervision.

DEFINITIONS - AMBULATORY SURGERY

Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure: An operation/procedure, excluding an office/surgery or outpatient operation/procedure, where the patient would normally be discharged on the same working day.

Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure Patient: A patient having an operation/procedure excluding an office/surgery or outpatient operation/procedure, who is admitted and discharged on the same working day.

Ambulatory Surgery Centre (Facility): A centre (facility) designed for the optimum management of an ambulatory surgery/procedure patient.

Ambulatory Surgery Procedure - Extended Recovery Patient: A patient treated in ambulatory surgery/procedure centre/unit, free standing or hospital based, who requires extended recovery including overnight stay, before discharge the following day.

Ambulatory Surgery/Procedure Extended Recovery Centre/Unit: Purpose constructed/modified patient accommodation, free standing or within an ambulatory surgery centre or hospital, specifically designed for the extended recovery of ambulatory surgery/procedure patients.

Limited Care Accommodation: Hotel/hostel accommodation for ambulatory surgery/procedure patients where professional health care is available on an on call basis.

Hotel/Hostel Accommodation: Accommodation without professional health care for ambulatory surgery/procedure patients when required for domestic, social or travel reasons.

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*Please send comments, criticism or suggested additions to Professor P.E.M. Jarrett, Editor-in-Chief, Ambulatory Surgery.