

Connecticut ASCs: An Update



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- Connecticut Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers



CAASC Background

- Formed the CT Association in 2005
- Membership includes all 61 of the state's freestanding ASCs
- CT also required physicians providing moderate to deep sedation in their offices to become licensed as Outpatient Surgical Facilities.
- CT Requires ASCs, Hospitals and Nursing Homes to belong to a Patient Safety Organization. CAASC created and got approved the ASCPSO. All ASCs belong to it.
- History of Success and a Strong, Unified Voice for ASCs



Covid 2020-2021

- Maintained Line of Communication with the State
- CAASC Coordinated:
 - Sharing Staff, Anesthesia Machines, PPE
 - Developed an inventory of available resources-ORs, Procedure Rooms, Anesthesia Machines, ACLS Certified Staff
 - Tried to Facilitate Collaboration with DPH, hospitals and health systems to coordinate care based on each community's individual needs and to provide, equipment, staff and capacity where needed
- Facilitated ability to resume cases.

ASC Tax Relief: 2021 Session

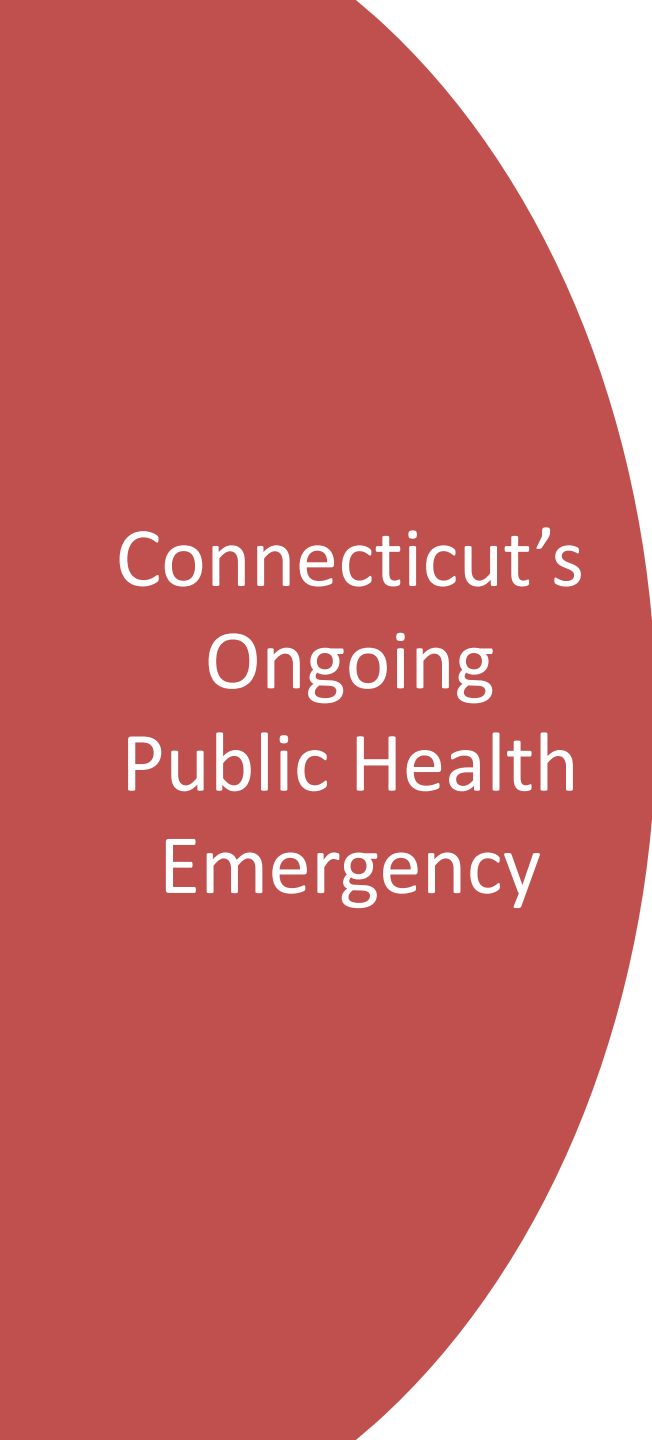
- Surgery Center Tax Initially Passed in 2015-No Hearing, Part of State's Largest Tax Increase
- Highest in the Nation
- Ongoing Relief Efforts Hampered by Early Strategy that Alerted CMS to Impermissibility Concerns (Broad Based and Equally Applied)
- Regular Communication with Legislators & Champions, Facility Visits, etc.
- Achieved Incremental Relief in Previous Sessions
 - Medicaid and Medicare Exemption
 - Fought Efforts to Remove \$1m Exemption



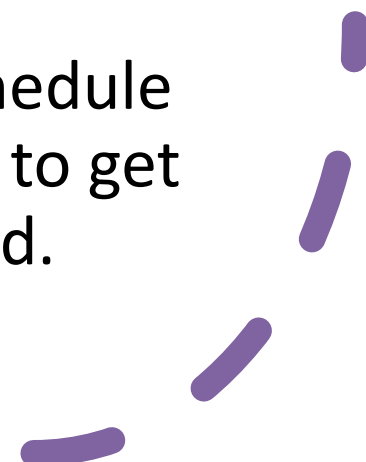
2021 Session: ASC Tax Relief

- 2021 session was not in person-Limited Access
- The Administration Proposed and Pushed for Elimination of \$1m Exemption and no rate reduction (Approx \$3m hit)
- Our Champion Pushed for Relief on Several Fronts
 - Reduced Tax Rate
 - Maintain Medicaid and Medicare Exemptions along with \$1m exemption
 - Create new Deductions for State Employee and Medicaid Revenue-Increase Access and Share in Savings
 - Limit Tax to Facility Services from Gross Receipts
 - **Final Package: Effective July 1, 2023-Tax Rate Reduced to 3%, Limited to Facility Services, Eliminated \$1m Exemption-Close to \$9m in Tax Relief**





Connecticut's Ongoing Public Health Emergency

- ASC Licensure Surveys Had Been Put on Hold During the pandemic
 - **The Public Health Emergency (PHE) remains in effect in CT until February 2022**
 - **ASC licenses remain in good standing until 6 months after the PHE is over.**
 - DPH has undertaken an aggressive licensure schedule over the next 3 months to get some surveys completed.
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Key Take Aways

- Strong Unified Voice for ASCs is Critical
 - Discussing how care has changed
 - Impact of Covid.....Testing, PPE, Scheduling, etc
- Contribute to PAC-National and State
 - Critical to Support Legislators Who Understand the Value-Proposition of ASCs
- Know your state legislators
 - Host a visit-Virtual
 - Become a Resource
 - Engage Patients/Local Businesses
 - Raise Awareness-Look for Opportunities to Tell Your Story

