

For Keeping Operating Rooms Running: How Strategic Equipment Management Protects ASC Performance

Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) are designed for efficiency. With most centers performing between **1,000 and 5,000 procedures each year**, even small operational disruptions can create significant scheduling challenges and financial losses. One of the most common causes of disruption is medical equipment downtime. In fact, the cost of a single operating room being down can reach **\$2,160 per hour**, making equipment reliability a critical component of ASC operations.

For many centers, the key to preventing downtime lies in a proactive approach to equipment management—combining preventive service plans, experienced technicians, and smart equipment purchasing strategies.

The Risk of Equipment Downtime in ASCs

Every surgical procedure depends on a network of critical devices working together. Sterilizers, anesthesia systems, imaging equipment, operating room lights, and sterile processing devices all play a role in ensuring safe and efficient patient care. When even one device fails, it can disrupt the entire surgical schedule.

Beyond operational disruptions, regulatory compliance also remains a concern for ASCs. Recent survey data shows that **77% of Ambulatory Surgery Centers receive at least one deficiency during inspections**, and **approximately 25% are cited for serious deficiencies**. Many of these citations are related to equipment maintenance, documentation, and compliance with manufacturer-recommended service schedules.

Maintaining equipment through proper preventive maintenance and documentation can significantly reduce both operational and regulatory risks.

Proactive Service Plans Reduce Downtime

A comprehensive equipment service plan is one of the most effective ways to keep operating rooms functioning without interruption. By implementing scheduled preventive maintenance, surgery centers can identify potential issues before they become costly failures.

Atlantic Biomedical's Biomedical Service Plan (BSP) provides a structured approach to managing equipment performance. Through scheduled inspections, preventive maintenance, corrective repairs, and detailed equipment tracking, the plan helps ensure that critical devices remain compliant, functional, and patient-ready.

Regular preventive maintenance on high-use devices such as sterilizers, anesthesia machines, and imaging equipment can dramatically reduce unexpected failures while extending the lifespan of the equipment.

Experienced Technicians Make the Difference

Even the best equipment requires skilled technicians to maintain it properly. Atlantic Biomedical employs manufacturer-trained and industry-certified technicians who specialize in servicing a wide range of medical technologies used in surgery centers.

These technicians perform operational inspections, preventive maintenance, and rapid-response repairs designed to minimize downtime. When equipment issues arise, the ability to diagnose and repair devices quickly can make the difference between a minor delay and a cancelled surgical schedule.

Reliable service support allows ASC administrators and clinical teams to focus on patient care rather than equipment problems.

Smart Equipment Investments Support Long-Term Reliability

In addition to maintenance services, the selection of reliable equipment also plays an important role in preventing downtime. Atlantic Biomedical offers both new and warranty-backed refurbished medical equipment that undergoes rigorous inspection and testing before deployment.

For many surgery centers, refurbished equipment provides a cost-effective way to upgrade technology while maintaining performance reliability. Financing options also allow centers to invest in equipment upgrades without placing strain on capital budgets.

A Strategic Partner for ASC Operations

In the fast-paced environment of ambulatory surgery, equipment performance directly impacts revenue, compliance, and patient satisfaction. With thousands of procedures performed annually and the high cost of operating room downtime, proactive equipment management is essential.

Through comprehensive service plans, experienced technicians, and reliable equipment solutions, Atlantic Biomedical helps Ambulatory Surgery Centers reduce risk, maintain compliance, and keep their operating rooms running efficiently.

When surgical equipment is properly maintained and supported by trusted experts, surgery centers can focus on what matters most—delivering safe, high-quality patient care while maintaining smooth and profitable operations.

For details on our HTM and Accreditation services, contact our Health Care Technology Management Advisor at Shawn.jones@atlanticbiomedical.com.

We look forward to hosting a “Get Together” with MASA in May! We hope you can join us!