

2026 North Carolina SMFP

Operating Room Work Group Meeting 2, January 14, 2025

Key Takeaways

1. DHSR determined that the statutory definition of Qualified Urban Ambulatory Surgical Facility (“**QUASF**”) **applies to all licensed ambulatory surgical facilities** in counties that had 125,000 or more residents at the 2020 Census. This includes existing ASFs.
2. The requirement to report data and provide **4 percent charity care applies to all QUASFs, regardless of conditions attached to CONs for existing ASFs.**
3. **A QUASF is** not a “new institutional health service” or a “health service facility.”
4. After December 2025, **CON applies only to hospital operating rooms and ASFs in counties with fewer than 125,000 residents.**
5. Moving an OR from a QUASF to a hospital will require a CON.
6. Workgroup now has three options:
 - a. Keep the current OR Methodology and remove the QUASFs from the calculations.
 - b. Develop a new methodology that excludes the QUASFs.
 - c. Eliminate the OR methodology in SMFP.
7. OR time caps in the current methodology present a problem for hospitals.
 - a. Case length will increase as the simple procedures migrate to ASFs.
 - b. The 10 percent annual increase cap is arbitrary.
8. Georgia let hospitals and single specialty ASFs add ORs without CON – result was 550 approved ASFs; very few multi-specialty ASFs.
 - a. Georgia requires notice of intent to initiate a new ASF.
 - b. NC statute does not support required notice of intent.
9. Workgroup seems to favor keeping a methodology, wants to protect smaller counties from having ASFs on their borders, but do not know how to do that.

10. Some members favor two methodologies: one for operating rooms for hospitals in large counties and another for small counties.
11. A few members suggested **relying on the geographic petition process** to add operating rooms to hospitals or counties with more than 125,000 residents.
12. The Agency does not intend to go through a Rules Review process to generate rules for the QUASF statutory changes.