

Lessons to consider from a stand-alone Ambulatory Surgery Center model

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What is an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC)

- ASC/Surgi-centers: medical facilities providing same-day surgical care, including diagnostic and preventive procedures
- Health care services come with a high price tag but ASCs are an exception
- Procedures performed in ASCs cost substantially less than in Hospitals
- Medicare program saves \$2.6 billion/year



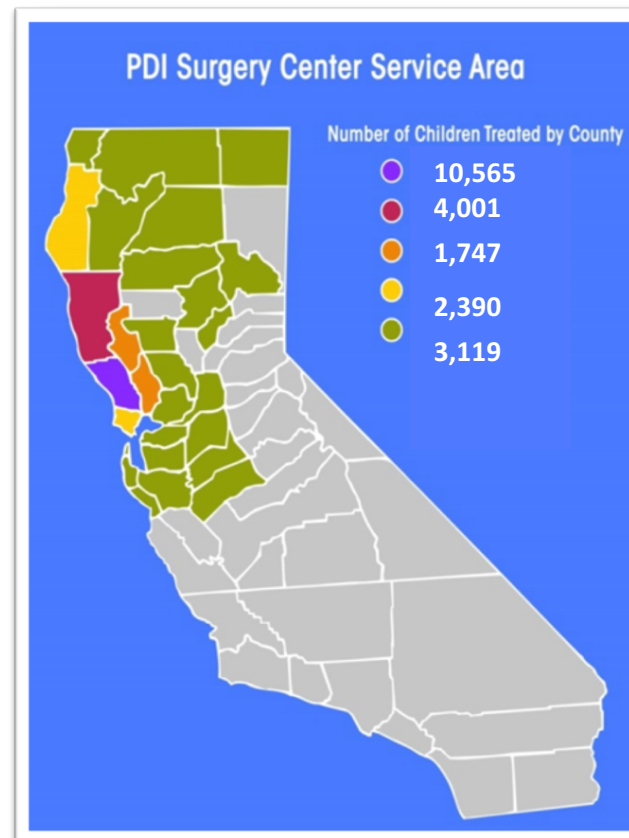
The PDI Model

- **2002 three-county assessment: Need for a sustainable dentistry resource** for low-income children who need dental treatment under general anesthesia (GA). Now serve 33 counties.
- **Case management and prevention education programs were determined to be essential** wrap-around services
- **Volunteer board assembled & CEO hired**
- **\$1.3 million capital campaign (public/private funding)**
- **2 operating room ASC certified by CMS, AAAHC, CA Dept of Health**



PDI opened its doors January 2008

Mission: To maintain a sustainable dentistry resource that will serve the low income children of Northern California who need safe sedation for dental treatment, and to provide prevention education and promote oral health.

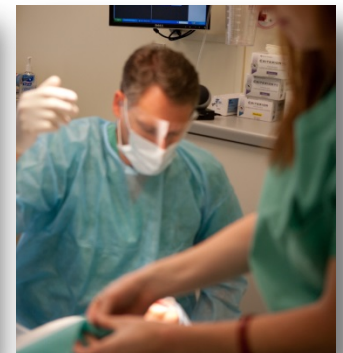


21,822 patients
treated since 2008



Staffing

- CEO
- Administrator
- Medical Director and Dental Director
- Contracted pediatric dentists, anesthesiologists.
- Nurses, and dental assistants on staff
- 2 communications and fund development staff
- 4 educators/promoters, 2 caseworkers
- In-house biller and two front-desk staff





Why PDI Matters



"PDI is a huge miracle for my two daughters aged 12 and 16 who both have autism. The girls were unable to sit through dental appointments so went for years without dental care. But with PDI it's just so easy." – Carole Cherry

Special Needs

- Since 2008, PDI has been the permanent dental home for Autistic children up to age of 14 (first patients/day)
- They receive regular care and cleanings every 12 months
- In 2016, PDI expanded to treat patients with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome and more (up to the age of 25)
- Treatment is provided on 2 days per month
- Treatment on adult teeth is more complex = 2 to 3 patients/day



Prevention Education

"Prevention is priceless."

- Dr. Ruchi Sahota, DDS and consumer adviser for the ADA

See Also: 2000 Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America

- **The goal** of PDI's prevention education programs is to reach children before children develop tooth decay that is so severe as to require treatment under general anesthesia (GA) and to keep Special Needs patients on a regular 12-18 month recall schedule for cleanings
- The Prevention Education Department consists of three programs:
 - In-house Oral Health Education
 - The Promotores (lay health worker) Program
 - Awareness Campaigns: Outreach and Public Information



Lessons Learned

- **Communication:** Open communication encourages staff, partners and supporters to innovate and suggest ways to further improve services. This is the *culture* of PDI
- **Education:** Raise awareness about the importance of dental health to overall health: children, teachers, parents, clinics, businesses, pediatricians/MDs, nurses, community workers about the importance of dental health to overall health
- **Partnerships:** PDI partners with 100+ Northern California agencies.
- **Measurement:** To improve programs PDI measures results



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