

Corazon was engaged by a cardiovascular physician practice to expand their existing Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) by adding invasive cardiology services. This expansion aimed to enhance the practice's service offerings and improve patient care through the development of a new cardiac cath lab within their existing ASC. Recognizing the need for specialized expertise, the center relied on Corazon to deliver a thorough readiness assessment along with cath lab "start-up" or implementation support. Corazon also ensured the successful establishment through Cath/PCI accreditation of their new cath lab in the existing ASC.



### **Situation:**

The surgery center faced significant challenges in adding expanded cardiology services to their existing ASC. The administrative leadership lacked the necessary experience in ASC regulatory compliance. This gap led to state regulatory compliance issues. The initial attempts by the center to handle these issues independently resulted in further delays in opening the new cath lab and were very resource intensive.

### **Interventions:**

Corazon launched support with a thorough readiness assessment of the practice's overall ASC compliance status, followed by the development of a detailed plan to address deficiencies in achieving adherence to federal and state standards. Corazon further prepared the center for state inspections by formulating responses to state compliance requests. Specific state requirements, including typical life safety items and general ASC compliance, were addressed to meet all regulatory standards.

During the implementation phase, Corazon guided the center through the state requirements, as well as the usual staffing, staff education, facility, equipment selection, and policy development needs that are necessary in any new service start-up. The team provided the necessary expertise and support to help the center meet the regulatory requirements successfully. This included integrating the ASC and Corazon's Cath/PCI accreditation process into the project timeline, preparing for surveys, and addressing potential issues proactively to ensure a smooth accreditation process. The entire project, including the ASC readiness assessment and the implementation of the new cardiac catheterization lab, was completed on time and on budget.

### Results:

The guidance provided by Corazon led to significant positive outcomes for the surgery center:

- **Regulatory Compliance:** The center achieved regulatory readiness and successfully addressed the state compliance issues. The administrative staff gained an expert-level understanding of ASC operations and compliance requirements.
- **Operational Success:** The center is now performing cardiac catheterization procedures, which was the key goal of Corazon's support. The successful implementation of the cardiology services has enhanced the center's service offerings, operational capabilities, and prominence within the local community.
- **Corazon E3 Accreditation Achievement:** The center successfully obtained Corazon's SCAI-Endorsed Cath/PCI Accreditation, affirming the quality and safety of their services. This accreditation marked a significant milestone, showcasing the effectiveness of Corazon's support and implementation. *The client has exhibited outstanding performance, completing 25 catheterizations with zero adverse events. As part of their dedication to quality, they conducted a mock transfer drill that exhibited a potential 23-minute emergency transfer time to a tertiary facility, well below the 60-minute benchmark. They achieved 100% compliance in critical patient care metrics and documentation, reflecting their commitment to high-quality standards.*



“**The greatest benefit from Corazon was their expertise and hands-on support with the start-up of our invasive cardiac program. We felt they were very site-specific in regard to policies and procedures, which we greatly appreciated. We are very grateful for all of their help.**”

Corazon's specialized knowledge and thorough approach played a crucial role in assisting this surgery center in navigating their regulatory hurdles and reaching their objective of expanding their ASC to offer invasive cardiology services. With Corazon's support, the center was able to save a year's worth of time by swiftly securing full licensure, incorporating cardiac services, and carrying out procedures within just a month.

*To learn more about this ASC Assessment, Implementation, and Accreditation, call 412-364-8200 to speak to one of our experts.*