

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question:** *How much space do I need for a single specialty pain practice?*

**Answer:**

The space needed to support a "single specialty pain practice" depends on what you are after, since there are many variations of that theme. If you are simply looking for space to perform E & M services (all procedures to be done elsewhere) you will want at least 1,500 SF. That space will give you a small waiting room, a small business office, two or three exam rooms, a physician's office, and a toilet room -- truly a minimum space. If you want a Staff Lounge, a Conference room, or anything else, it will be larger.

A small step up would be to provide a single Procedure room intermixed with the exams, for a low volume of procedures -- meaning patients will prep and recover inside the procedure room. Assuming you will want to do your procedures with fluoroscopic guidance, the minimum facility area now becomes about 1,800 SF. As above, additional space would be necessary for a Staff Lounge, etc.

A significant step in operational refinement involves a scenario where we design your space to provide two separate functional groups: one for E & M services and the other for the procedure volume. This permits two physicians to see patients at the same time, alternately working (full or half days each) on the Exam and Procedure "sides" of the facility -- effectively maximizing their practice/procedure volume and efficiency. For this to work, you will need defined patient prep and recovery areas to support the procedure room. This organizational concept for "Practice Based Procedural Care" works well in spaces 4,000 SF or larger.

If you progress to performing procedures in your own Ambulatory Surgery Center (to capture the additional facility fee for each covered procedure) -- the most frequent situation we see for busy Pain Management groups -- you will want a practice suite to support two or three physicians, and a separate and distinct ASC. Such a practice suite alone requires about 3,500 SF; the separate additional area required for the ASC depends on the number of operating rooms, and the State regulations in force.

The best way to accurately project your space need is to develop a detailed architectural space program that lists ever space needed to develop a functionally efficient facility tailored to your needs. You can find a paper on that subject on our web site [Resources & Links tab] -- or have us perform the service during a one-day Predesign consultation. When we do a feasibility study for an ASC, Space Programming is included.

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