

SpaceMed Rule-of-Thumb

Outpatient Endoscopy Capacity and Preliminary Space Need



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Endoscopy procedures — using a rigid or flexible scope to examine the interior of a hollow organ or cavity in the body — may involve the upper gastrointestinal tract (GI endoscopies), large intestine (colonoscopies and sigmoidoscopies), lower respiratory tract (bronchoscopies) and the urinary tract (cystoscopies) along with a variety of other specialized procedures. Endoscopy procedures generally take 30 to 45 minutes. Patients are usually given intravenous sedation and may recover for up to an hour after the procedure. Recovery time has been reduced significantly in recent years due to the use of shorter-acting sedatives.

An endoscopy suite will have a minimum of two procedure rooms. Suites with six or more endoscopy rooms are rare. Utilization of the suite can vary dramatically depending on whether it is a hospital-based service used by various independent physicians (lower utilization) or whether the suite is owned and operated by an entrepreneurial physician group (higher utilization). The guidelines below can be used to estimate the preliminary space need for a distinct endoscopy suite. Endoscopy rooms are sometimes located within or contiguous with an outpatient surgery suite or incorporated into another type of medical procedure unit which allows the sharing of patient intake, prep, recovery and other support space. If endoscopy rooms are part of an outpatient surgery suite, a range of 800 to 1,200 DGSF of incremental space per procedure room is generally required.

Size of Suite	Capacity	Department Gross Square Feet (DGSF)	Comments
Small Suite (Two to Three Procedure Rooms)	1,250 to 1,500 annual tests per procedure room	1,500 to 2,000 DGSF per procedure room	Assumes an average procedure room turnaround time of 30 to 45 minutes with two prep/recovery bays per procedure room; higher space range assumes larger procedure rooms and more ample administrative space.
Medium Suite (Three to Four Procedure Rooms)	1,250 to 2,000+ annual tests per procedure room	1,250 to 1,500 DGSF per procedure room	
Large Suite (Five to Six Procedure Rooms)	1,500 to 2,000+ annual tests per procedure room	1,000 to 1,250 DGSF per procedure room	

Note: DGSF represents the "footprint" of a department or functional area and includes the net square feet of the individual rooms as well as the space occupied by internal circulation corridors, walls/partition, and minor utility shafts; DGSF excludes common areas such as shared public corridors and lobbies, elevator banks, stairwells, major mechanical spaces, and the space occupied by the building's exterior wall.

Source: *SpaceMed — A Space Planning Guide For Healthcare Facilities* (www.spacemed.com).