

RE: Total Joint Exception

Content of the Exception Request

- Identification of the joint replacements (knee, hip, and/or shoulder) that you intend to perform.
- Specify if you intend to perform bilateral joint replacements on the same patient, at the same time.
- All facility policies and procedures which will be applicable to joint replacement procedures, including those which may apply to surgeries generally such as transfer procedures.
- A complete narrative/plan for the procedure including but not limited to blood loss management policy, any pre-operative preparation of the patient, and evaluation of the patient's home or post-recovery environment.
- The number of operating rooms and the square footage of the operating rooms in which you intend to perform total joint surgeries. ***(Please note a minimum of 600 square feet per operating room is required)***
- The home health agency or agencies, and/or physical therapy provider that the facility intends to utilize to provide post-procedure services to each total joint patient. Please describe the extent to which the facility intends to utilize these services.
- Completed Total Joint Exception Request 15 Patient Submission Spreadsheet. On the spreadsheet, please provide documentation for the **15 most recent** total joint replacement surgeries (knees, hips and/or shoulders) performed in either a hospital outpatient or hospital inpatient location, which meet the following criteria. **Please note you need to have 15 patients for each surgeon and each joint. Please email the DAAC Division Director or Assistant Director to obtain a copy of this spreadsheet.**
 - ❖ The 30-Day Readmission Rate, post-surgery, is less than 1% for that group.
 - ❖ Identify whether the surgery was performed in a hospital inpatient or outpatient setting. To the extent possible, outpatient setting is preferred.
 - ❖ Knee and hip - Patient recovered sufficiently to ambulate at least 100 feet (with walker), navigate 1 step, tolerate food or drink, and urinate; either within 30 minutes of admission to inpatient room **or** at minimum, prior discharge from the hospital for same-day surgeries.
 - ❖ Shoulder - Patient recovered sufficiently to ambulate 100 feet and navigate one

step with arm brace and has normal numbness in hand/arm; take food or drink and urinate; either within 30 minutes of admission to inpatient room **or** at minimum, prior to discharge from the hospital for same-day surgeries.

- ❖ Include the recovery time (average & range) from procedure to discharge or PACU

Patient Selection Criteria for Total Joint Procedures

Please note that you may identify alternate criteria if you are able to explain in narrative form why the alternate criteria are superior with regard to patient safety and provide clinical evidence of same.

If you have not identified alternate criteria, each patient undergoing an approved total joint procedure will be expected to meet the following criteria at the time of surgery:

- ❖ Age 80 years old or less.
- ❖ Physical status classification is PS I, II, or III (please refer to 28 Pa. Code §551.3, physical status classifications).
- ❖ No cardiac conditions, including but not limited to, CHF, Uncontrolled Hypertension, Arrhythmia, Pacemaker/AICD placement, MI < 1 year, presence of stents, history of CABG.
- ❖ Normal cardiac function as verified by cardiologist, primary care doctor, surgeon or anesthesiologist.
- ❖ No active bleeding disorder(s).
- ❖ BMI <40 at time of surgery.
- ❖ Good nutritional status.
- ❖ Highly motivated and in good mental health in accordance with measures the facility provides to the Department.

Ongoing Reporting Requirements

Data on each patient that undergoes an approved total joint procedure must be recorded on a form prescribed by the Department known as the Total Joint Exception Quarterly Report. The completed Total Joint Exception Quarterly Reports are submitted by e-mail to the Department within 30 days from the end of each quarter.

A facility that performs 25 or more approved total joint procedures per quarter; has maintained an average blood loss of 50cc or less for those procedures; and has no serious events for total joint patients for two consecutive years will no longer be required to submit Total Joint Exception Quarterly Reports. Only Total Joint Exception Quarterly Reports submitted while under a full exception can be used to satisfy this requirement. Total Joint Exception Quarterly Reports submitted while under a probationary exception will not be considered for this purpose.

Probationary to Full Exception

After a facility has been granted a probationary exception and has met the requirements outlined in the probationary exception approval letter for four quarters, including satisfying all reporting requirements, the Department will determine whether the facility is eligible for a full exception.

The determination will be provided to the facility and will include conditions applicable to a full exception, if granted.

Please call 717-783-8980 with any questions.