**SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE**

**Certification template for Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery**

(Insert media contact information)

**(Organization name) awarded Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery from The Joint Commission**

(CITY, State, Date) – (Organization name) has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery (ACSS) by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization’s commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

The certification, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, helps organizations provide consistent communication and collaboration among all health care providers involved in the care of the patient – from the pre-surgical consultation with the spine surgeon to the intraoperative, hospitalization or ambulatory surgery center admission, rehabilitation activities, and then the follow-up visit with the surgeon.

To be eligible for ACSS, organizations must implement evidence-based care and clinical practice guidelines and participate in the American Spine Registry, a national quality improvement registry for spine care. Additionally, organizations need to collect performance measurement data on surgical site infection rates, new neurological deficits, unplanned return visits to the operating room, and pre-operative and post-operative patient reported outcomes.

(Organization name) underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review on (date). During the visit, a Joint Commission reviewer evaluated compliance with related certification standards including (insert most relevant standards areas – examples include: clinical information management, program management, supporting self-management, and delivering or facilitating clinical care). Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. The reviewer also conducted onsite observations and interviews.

“Advanced Certification in Spine Surgery recognizes health care organizations committed to fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care,” says Deborah Ryan, MS, RN, interim executive vice president, Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. “We commend (organization name) for using certification to reduce variation in its clinical processes and to strengthen its program structure and management framework for orthopedic patients.”

(Insert quote from organization leader)

(Insert specific examples of how organization prepared for certification process and/or specific certification’s eligibility requirements)

For more information, please visit [The Joint Commission website](https://www.jointcommission.org/).

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(Insert organization boilerplate)