The Joint Commission recently announced its new Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement program option for accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals, and ambulatory surgery centers. Program requirements, which will be effective March 2016, address surgeries performed in inpatient, hospital-based outpatient (same-day surgery), and ambulatory care (freestanding) settings.

The program is designed to help organizations deliver a consistent, safe, and high-quality approach to care—that is, an approach that reduces the risk of error and improves outcomes and customer satisfaction—by providing the following:

- **Integrated, coordinated, patient-centered care**—Starting with the orthopedic consultation and continuing through the orthopedic surgeon follow-up visit
- **Comprehensive education of, and shared decision making with, the total hip or total knee replacement patient**—Occurring along the continuum of care from orthopedic consultation to care of the patient (preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative) to discharge to follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon
- **Consistent communication and collaboration with all health care providers involved in the patient’s care and transitions of care**—Including providers on the interdisciplinary team (as well as those who are not on the team) from the orthopedic consultation through the follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon
- **Ongoing quality improvement processes**—Involving the implementation of improvements to the program from the orthopedic consultation to the orthopedic follow-up visit

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In accordance with The Joint Commission’s standards development process, Joint Commission staff convened a technical advisory panel of multidisciplinary clinical experts to discuss how to evaluate programs seeking advanced total hip and total knee replacement certification. Staff also conducted a field review and pilot surveys to assess the current state of total hip and total knee replacement care services and the operational challenges in addressing the continuum of care.

Requirements for Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement will be posted on The Joint Commission website at http://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/prepublication_standards.aspx until the E-dition® update is posted in the middle of March 2015. From that point on, program requirements will be available on E-dition to organizations certified under The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care program.

For more information regarding the standards, please contact Heather Martin, RN, MSN, MBA, associate project director, Department of Standards and Survey Methods, The Joint Commission, at hmartin@jointcommission.org or Wendi Roberts, RN, BA, MS, CLNC, TNS, executive director, Certification, The Joint Commission, at certification@jointcommission.org.