ORTHOPEDIC CERTIFICATION
Pathways to excellence in patient care

The Joint Commission
Accreditation is Just the Beginning

For health care accreditation, the experience and knowledge of The Joint Commission is unmatched. Our commitment to excellence is applied with equal passion and rigor to our Orthopedic Certification program, as we put the tools, knowledge and guidance in place for you to deliver continuously reliable and excellent care to orthopedic patient populations.

The Power of a Single Certification Provider

With a suite of certification offerings covering your entire spectrum of services, The Joint Commission provides benefits that no à la carte provider can, including:

- Seamless, logistical implementation
- Certification reports tailored to your specific needs
- A unified platform for consistent care delivery
- An efficient, affordable single process
What is Orthopedic Certification?

Joint Commission orthopedic certifications provide structure for programs to improve their patient outcomes and reduce patient risk through clinically proven evidence-based care.

Certification shows an organization’s commitment to continuous performance improvement. Orthopedic Certification options are evaluated under the Disease-Specific Care Certification manual and have three components: standards, clinical practice guidelines, and performance measurement. This structure provides a framework for consistency of care to improve patient outcomes.

Orthopedic Certification Settings

Orthopedic certification options are available to Joint Commission-accredited organizations within the following settings:

- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)

Orthopedic programs seeking one or more of the core or advanced certification options must meet core standards under the Disease-Specific Care Certification Manual.
Orthopedic programs seek certification because it aims to:

- Provide organizations with a pathway to excellence
- Provide a framework to improve patient outcomes
- Reduce variation in care delivery
- Establish a consistent approach to care, reducing the risk of error
- Demonstrate commitment to a higher standard of clinical service
- Organize teams across the continuum of care
- Provide a competitive edge in the marketplace
- Enhance staff recruitment and development

92% of our customers tell us that certification through The Joint Commission improves patient outcomes.

Source: *Value of Certification, Market Research, 2016.*
Improve your Specific Program

Your program has the potential to optimize efficiencies while improving patient care. The certification process helps you identify and measure areas for performance improvement. Submit data, track your progress in orthopedic programs, and see how your program improves in areas such as:

- Surgical site infection rates
- Fall rates
- Improving patient education prior to discharge
- Length of stay
- Early ambulation
- Pain management

General Eligibility for Core Certification and Advanced Certification

- Joint Commission-accredited organization
- Program has served a minimum of 10 patients
- Use of standardized clinical care delivery based on evidence-based care and clinical practice guidelines
- Data collection and performance measurement data
ORTHOPEDIC CERTIFICATIONS TO MEET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF YOUR HEALTH CARE FACILITY

Orthopedic Systems of Care Certification Options

- **Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement (THKR)** is the most demanding certification and is designed for physician’s offices, inpatient/hospital based, outpatient/ambulatory surgery center and post follow-up care organizations.

- **Core Hip Replacement Certification** is applicable only to hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers.

- **Core Knee Replacement Certification** is limited to surgery provided in hospitals or ambulatory surgery centers.

- **Core Spinal Surgery Certification** is intended for organizations that conduct all three of these procedures: discectomy, laminectomy and spinal fusion.

- **Core Orthopedic Rehabilitation Certification** is available for rehabilitation programs in acute care hospitals, long term care facilities or home care settings.

Demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission’s national standards and performance measurement expectations may help obtain contracts from employers and purchasers concerned with controlling costs and improving productivity.
Advanced vs. Core: What’s the Difference?

Comparison of Core Hip or Core Knee versus Advanced Certification for (THKR). Choose which level of hip and knee certification is appropriate for your organization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE CERTIFICATION</th>
<th>ADVANCED CERTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Disease-Specific Care Standards</td>
<td>Core Disease-Specific Care Standards plus program-specific requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-day review</td>
<td>2-day review – Program must have one patient on-site at the time of the review who is undergoing a hip or knee replacement surgery so the process can be reviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No intraoperative observation</td>
<td>Intraoperative observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization chooses performance measures – At least two of the four measures must be clinical</td>
<td>Standardized performance measures become effective in January 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FEATURED CERTIFICATIONS

Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement (THKR)

Overview

The THKR certification program must meet core standards plus additional, clinically relevant requirements and expectations. In order to apply for Advanced Certification, the program must perform both total hip and total knee joint replacement procedures.

The Advanced Certification program goes beyond Core Certification to provide more depth and detail. This Advanced Certification program helps health care organizations develop consistent communication and collaboration among all health care providers involved in the care of the patient — from the pre-surgical orthopedic consultation with their surgeon to the intraoperative, hospitalization or ASC admission, rehabilitation activities and then the follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon. Shared decision-making is assessed and involves the patient in implant discussions, goal development, pain management and preoperative/postoperative medications.

“Providing cutting-edge, quality care to our patients is a top priority at Jefferson, and we are honored to be recognized by The Joint Commission for the exceptional advancements in performing joint replacements at our organization.”

Dr. Alexander R. Vaccaro, M.D, Ph.D., MBA, The Richard Rothman Professor and Chair of Orthopedic Surgery, THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Communications through the Continuum of Care

- Communication and collaboration among intraoperative and PACU staff
- Patient education and discharge planning and physical/occupational therapy
**Scope:** Patient-centered care from orthopedic consultation through orthopedic surgery and follow-up visits for (THKR) patients

**Site of procedure:** Hospital inpatient, hospital-based outpatient (same-day surgery) and ambulatory care settings (freestanding)

**Education:** Comprehensive instructions and advice provided to patients and their caregivers

**Staff proficiency:** High level of competence in all patient settings and transitions of care

**Shared decision-making:** Addressing roles, procedures, discussion of goals, and medications with the patient throughout the continuum of care

**Collaboration:** Consistent communication and information transmitted among the clinical team

**Quality:** Ongoing improvement processes
Program-Specific Qualifications for Advanced Certification for THKR

For complete information, please refer to the current Disease-Specific Care Certification Manual.

In addition to the eligibility criteria described in “The Joint Commission Certification Process” (CERT) chapter, programs seeking Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement Certification must also:

• Apply for the site that provides total hip and total knee joint replacement procedures. Each individual site must independently meet the eligibility requirements and standards.

• Provide both total hip and total knee joint replacement procedures.

• At the time of review, arrange for the reviewer to observe either a total hip or total knee joint replacement procedure.

• Ensure the organization has scheduled at least one joint replacement surgery during the time frame for the on-site review.

Over the next 20 years hip replacements are expected to grow by 174% and knee replacements by 673% according to a study presented at the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons.
CORE CERTIFICATIONS

Core Hip and Core Knee Replacement Certifications

Orthopedic joint replacement programs are certified under the standards for Disease-Specific Care programs. The standards are not specific to joint replacement, but are a general framework for a well-run disease-management program.

Surgical Procedures Performed

- Core Hip Replacement Certification
- Core Knee Replacement Certification
- Combined Core Hip and Core Knee Replacement Certifications

Organizations are required to perform the surgeries based on the Core Program(s) chosen. Two certification decisions are required for the combined Core Hip and Core Knee Replacement Certifications.
Key Requirements

- Hospital or ambulatory surgery center (ASC) only
- One-day review
- Must meet core disease-specific care standards
- Visit and communication with peri-operative team
- Discussion with staff regarding hand-offs
- Team within the hospital or ASC working toward high reliability
- Movement toward standardized order sets for all physicians
- Notes regarding preoperative optimization being completed
- Physician champion/medical director identified, involved in program initiatives
- Standardized clinical practice guidelines and order sets
- Content review of preoperative patient education
- Review of hospital/ASC discharge process
- Should be considering, if not implementing, some form of functional outcome measures
- Four performance improvement measures of organization’s choice (two must be clinical)
Core Spinal Surgery Certification

Spinal surgery programs (discectomy, laminectomy and spinal fusion) are certified under the standards for Disease-Specific Care programs. The standards are not specific to spinal surgery, but are a general framework for a well-run disease-management program.

Certification Process

Certification requirements for spinal surgery programs address three areas:

- Compliance with consensus-based national standards
- Effective and consistent use of appropriate, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the discectomy, laminectomy and spinal fusion patient populations
- Collection and analysis of a minimum of four performance measures specific to the spinal surgery patient population (a minimum of two performance measures must be clinical in nature)
Unique Details about Certification for Spinal Surgery

- Certification for Spinal Surgery encompasses three distinct procedures. To be certified under this title, an organization must conduct all three of these procedures: discectomy, laminectomy and spinal fusion.

- Although this certification recognizes three surgical procedures, it is considered one certification review, and is charged as one disease program.

- To apply for this certification, the organization does not need to specify all of the areas of the spine where these procedures are performed (i.e., discectomy: cervical, anterior, posterior, etc.). The organization just needs to identify that it does at least one type of the procedure.

- Because this is considered one certification, only four performance measures are required. These measures do not have to be shared across all three surgical procedures.

- Even if a patient receives two or three of the surgical procedures, the patient’s primary diagnosis is used for data collection purposes.
Core Orthopedic Rehabilitation Certification

Our core certifications help create a baseline of consistent excellence upon which you can build a care delivery framework to positively impact patient outcomes. These foundational programs encompass three main components — standards, clinical practice guidelines, and performance measurement.

Orthopedic Rehabilitation Certification is a foundational Disease-Specific Care Certification and must meet core standards under the Disease-Specific Care Certification Manual.

Eligibility & Requirements

To be eligible for core certifications, programs must:

• Be located in the United States, operated by the U.S. government, or operated under a charter of the U.S. Congress
• Be provided within a Joint Commission-accredited organization when the organization is eligible for accreditation
• Have served a minimum of 10 patients at the time it submits its application
• Use a standardized method of delivering clinical care based on clinical practice guidelines and/or evidence-based practice
• Use performance measurement to improve its performance over time
WORKING WITH THE JOINT COMMISSION

Subject Matter Experts
Our reviewers have expertise in the area of orthopedics in a health care organization and are current, contemporary and relevant when reviewing your program.

No Surprises
Reviewers will make the review process as transparent as possible and collaborate with you and your team throughout the on-site event to avoid any surprises at the end of the review.

Staff Praise and Best Practices
We will acknowledge staff for their contributions to the process and the program, and will identify best practices. Collaboration, engagement and sharing of best practices allows you to continually improve your program and ensure it is dynamic to meet the needs of a continually changing health care environment.

Have Questions?
- For information about any of these certifications, contact us at 630-792-5291 or email us at certification@jointcommission.org.
- For questions about the standards, contact our Standards Interpretation Group (SIG) at www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/jcfaq.aspx.
Benefits of Working with the Joint Commission Enterprise

Joint Commission certification can help you elevate your ability to deliver the level of care and safety your patients deserve. To help you prepare for success during the certification process — and to address quality issues beyond — we provide you with a host of trusted, expert resources.

To further advance knowledge and expertise across your spectrum of services, our not-for-profit affiliate, Joint Commission Resources (JCR), provides an extensive offering designed to keep you and your staff on the cutting edge of orthopedic excellence, including:

- Annual Orthopedic Certification Conference
- Books, Manuals & Publications
- Innovative Software Solutions

To learn more about how JCR can help you prepare, visit jcrinc.com today.
Your Source for Orthopedic Certification

Looking to elevate and strengthen your orthopedic program? The Joint Commission can help. With a comprehensive suite of offerings to choose from — backed by the expertise and insight of our robust orthopedic care experience — you will find the guidance, knowledge and framework you need to achieve improved outcomes and continued success.

Reach out today. For more information on Joint Commission orthopedic certification, please contact us at certification@jointcommission.org.