

**Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification****Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification  
Frequently Asked Questions**

July 2019

This certification is offered by The Joint Commission in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

**About Advanced Certification****Q: How long does this certification last?**

A: This certification is a two-year cycle. Organizations will recertify every two years.

**Q: What is the scope of the program?**

A: The scope of the Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement certification program is the patient care from the orthopedic consultation, preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative, through the orthopedic surgeon follow-up visit including all transitions that occur within each of those phases of care. For hospital programs, this includes inpatient, outpatient, and same day procedures.

**Q: Do organizations have to perform both hip and knee replacement procedures for the advanced certification?**

A: Yes, the program must be performing both total hip and total knee replacement procedures.

**Q: Are there any volume eligibility requirements?**

A: A program must have performed a minimum of 10 hip replacements and 10 knee replacements since the program has opened. There are no monthly or annual volume requirements.

**Q: How long is the review process?**

A: It is a two-day review with one reviewer. The on-site review takes place every other year.

**Q: Who can apply for the Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement certification?**

A: The Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement is available for Joint Commission accredited hospitals, critical access hospitals, and ambulatory surgery centers.

**Q: Do organizations need to utilize standardized order sets?**

A: Yes, the program must show consistent use of standardized order sets for all physicians.

**Q: Do we need to have a Medical Director for the program?**

A: Yes, it is required that the program identifies a Medical Director for the total hip and total knee program. The medical director for the program must have experience in the care of patients undergoing total hip and total knee replacements in order to provide clinical guidance and administrative leadership to the program.

**Q: Are there standardized performance measures for this certification?**

A: Yes, there are four standardized performance measures.

- 1) THKR-1 Regional Anesthesia
- 2) THKR-2 Postoperative Ambulation on the Day of Surgery
- 3) THKR-3 Discharged to Home
- 4) THKR-4 Preoperative Functional/Health Status Assessment

You can find additional information on these measures here:

[Specifications Manual for Joint Commission National Quality Measures](#)

## **About the Registry Standard**

### **Q: What are the requirements for being involved in a clinical data registry?**

A: As of July 1, 2019, the program analyzes its total hip and total knee arthroplasty data in the [American Joint Replacement Registry \(AJRR\)](#), which is part of the [American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Registry Program](#), and uses it for quality improvement purposes.

### **Q: What's involved with belonging to the AJRR?**

A: Our Registry Engagement team can walk you through the steps. We'll work with you to get the necessary agreements in place; there's a small annual fee and a one-time setup fee. Your IT department will work with our support staff to ensure that file transmission to the Registry runs smoothly. Once you're up and running you can utilize the RegistryInsights® platform to view your data on dashboards or through reports.

### **Q: How do I get started with the AJRR if we're not already enrolled?**

A: With over 1,200 sites already enrolled in the AJRR, your institution might already be participating. Reach out to the AAOS Registry Engagement team at [RegistryEngagement@aaos.org](mailto:RegistryEngagement@aaos.org), (847) 292-0530, or visit [www.aaos.org/ajrr](http://www.aaos.org/ajrr) to find out more. You can see a list of all enrolled sites [here](#).

### **Q: Can I apply for certification at the same time I'm enrolling in the AJRR?**

A: At the time of the application process for certification you will need to attest that you are enrolled in a registry and exclusively the AJRR by January 2020. We will work with you if you are enrolling in AJRR and applying for certification in parallel.

### **Q: What data elements are required to submit to the AJRR?**

A: The AJRR collects procedural, postoperative, and patient-reported outcome data elements. Most of these elements can be pulled through your electronic health record system. You can learn about the full data elements [here](#).

## **About the Review Process**

### **Q: During the two-day review, will the reviewer observe a surgical procedure?**

A: Yes, you will arrange for the reviewer to observe the communication process for either a total hip or total knee replacement Day 1 or Day 2 of the review. Review will cover direct observation of hand-off communications through the entire care continuum.

### **Q: What is meant by "continuum of care"**

A: Continuum of care contains: physician's office visit to preoperative area, preoperative area to intraoperative area, intraoperative area to postoperative area, postoperative area to patient care unit, patient care unit to discharge, discharge to physician's office for follow up care, and any post-discharge care.

### **Q: These are two separate procedures, so are these separate certifications or one certification?**

A: One certification decision will be granted for the whole Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement Program.

### **Q: Will the reviewer go to the physician's office?**

A: The reviewer will either visit the physician's office or communicate directly with the physician's office staff.

### **Q: What's the process for proving our Registry participation?**

A: You will need to show a data report or participation letter at the time of review for the certification program. You will continue to use the data through the RegistryInsights platform to provide quality care at your site. Contact the AAOS Registry Engagement team to receive a participation letter at [RegistryEngagement@aaos.org](mailto:RegistryEngagement@aaos.org).

### **For More Information for Hospitals**

#### **Q: How do we gain access to the Joint Commission Standards and how much does it cost?**

A: Reach out to The Joint Commission Business Development team at [certification@jointcommission.org](mailto:certification@jointcommission.org), (630) 792-5291, or visit [jointcommission.org](http://jointcommission.org).

#### **Q: We want to become certified, where do we get started?**

A: The Joint Commission has a team of individuals who will help you through the certification process. You can reach out to [certification@jointcommission.org](mailto:certification@jointcommission.org), (630) 792-5291, or visit [jointcommission.org](http://jointcommission.org) to be connected with your local Associate Director.

#### **Q: How do I join the American Joint Replacement Registry?**

A: Reach out to the AAOS Registry Engagement team at [RegistryEngagement@aaos.org](mailto:RegistryEngagement@aaos.org), (847) 292-0530, or visit [www.aaos.org/ajrr](http://www.aaos.org/ajrr).

### **For More Information for Ambulatory Surgery Centers**

#### **Q: How do we gain access to the Joint Commission Standards and how much does it cost?**

A: Reach out to The Joint Commission Ambulatory Care Business Development team at [ahcquality@jointcommission.org](mailto:ahcquality@jointcommission.org) or call (630) 792-5286.

#### **Q: We want to become certified, where do we get started?**

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#### **Q: How do I join the American Joint Replacement Registry?**

A: Reach out to the AAOS Registry Engagement team at [RegistryEngagement@aaos.org](mailto:RegistryEngagement@aaos.org), (847) 292-0530, or visit [www.aaos.org/ajrr](http://www.aaos.org/ajrr).