

CMS Care for Joint Replacement Program at Covenant HealthCare

Quick Facts



What is the CMS Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Program?

A mandatory CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) program, which includes 67 metropolitan service areas (approximately 800 hospitals across the nation). Each hospital in the mandated program is held financially accountable for the cost and quality of care for total joint replacement patients, including elective and emergent total joint replacement patients. This program is an effort by CMS to move from fee for service payment methodologies to alternative payment methodologies as mandated in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This program provides us the platform to develop and utilize pathways that are both evidence-based and prudent to enhance the way we manage patients undergoing total joint replacement.

How:

The Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) program requires that the cost per beneficiary will be bundled into a single price target, which is anchored by the initial inpatient hospitalization and continues through the 90-day episode of care following the surgery. At the completion of a year, CMS will reconcile payments per beneficiary to determine the organizations' success with the program.

Why:

Lower extremity joint replacements are one of the most common inpatient surgeries for Medicare beneficiaries across the nation. Recovery strategies vary greatly in cost and duration nationally. There is a large body of literature and evidence outlining best practice strategies for the management of lower extremity total joint replacement procedures. Based on this, CMS has implemented this program to encourage hospitals and providers to ensure quality patient centric care is consistently provided to these patient populations.

What does this mean for Covenant?

Covenant will be held accountable to changing the way we manage patients undergoing total joint replacement. It is an opportunity for Covenant to positively impact the care and outcomes of total joint replacement patients across the continuum of care. This includes all phases of care: pre-admission, acute care, and post-acute.

Timeline:

The program began April 1, 2016 and lasts five years (through 2020).

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