

Medical Device Surveillance and Assessment

Annual Report

Feature Story:

Kaiser Permanente National Total Joint Replacement Initiative Receives the 2022 Vohs Multi-Regional Quality Award

The James A. Vohs Award for Quality recognizes quality and patient safety programs that have a measurable impact on quality, patient satisfaction, and provide a marked improvement in care. The Kaiser Permanente National Total Joint Replacement Initiative (NTJRI) was awarded this multiregional honor for 2022! Through the collaborative efforts of Orthopedic surgeons, frontline workers, Interregional Chiefs, NTJRI, Total Joint Replacement Registry, and Medical Device Surveillance & Assessment Researchers, quality, safety, and the patient experience were maintained while broadly implementing same-day discharge for total joint replacement. This innovative, performance improvement-based, physician-led, multi-regional effort empowered surgeons and perioperative teams to change practice using a multi-stakeholder approach in which evidence-based best practices were shared across regions and medical centers.

“This award represents so much collaborative work from so many constituencies that leaned in for the benefit of total joint arthroplasty patients to achieve a new paradigm and win with patient satisfaction and wonderful outcomes. I thank all who have had a hand in this from surgeons, to anesthesiologists to nurses and care coordinators and so many more.”

– Ronald A. Navarro, MD, Regional Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery,
Southern California Permanente Medical Group, Pasadena, CA

Program Accomplishments

- * Home recovery increased program wide from 7.2% in 2016 to 77.4% in 2020.
- * Hospital stay went from 1.64 days in 2016 to 0.32 days by 2020, for primary total joints program wide.
- * 7-Day Returns to Care, 30-Day Readmissions, 30-day Pneumonia and 90-day DVT/PE rates for all hip and knee arthroplasty program wide trended downward or remained stable.
- * This multi-regional effort has demonstrated significant cost reduction and National KP Insight estimates close to \$72 million in savings since the inception of the program.
- * A survey of 3,026 patients across all KP regions demonstrated that even after adjusting for patient, hospital and surgical factors, patient satisfaction with overall care and surgical outcome was higher for home recovery patients than those who had longer hospital stays.

“This 5-year effort was driven by pockets of best practices scattered through the KP enterprise, and then successfully spread using performance improvement science, including data, balancing measures, a balanced approach to quality, efficiency, and experience, and constant reinforcement of organizational commitment through shared priorities and clear communication. These accomplishments truly signify the power of Kaiser Permanente.”

– Kate E. Koplan, MD, MPH, Chief Quality Officer,
The Southeast Permanente Medical Group, Atlanta, GA

Practice Consideration

This multi-regional initiative demonstrated high-quality outcomes, proving that the shift to home recovery joint replacement would not cause harm, by maintaining balanced safety and return-to-care metrics and increased patient satisfaction.