

Alberta's Strategic Clinical Networks

Hip and Knee Replacement Program

The Goal

Research by the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute (ABJHI) indicated hip and knee patients were routinely staying in hospital almost one day longer than necessary. These patients were often medically ready to leave but had not arranged for someone to help with recovery at home.



To address this issue, the Hip and Knee Replacement program was created to standardize the treatment and rehabilitation of patients at all 12 hospitals that perform hip and knee replacements.

The Process

To become more efficient, teams of health care providers were established at each site, bringing together surgeons, nurses and physiotherapists. These teams are involved in the care of patients from consultation through to surgery and back into the community.

Patients and their families now receive detailed information about their surgery so they understand what is involved and have help at home after surgery.

Patients are encouraged to get out of bed the same day as surgery which helps to reduce post-operative complications.

The Outcome

Data from 2013 shows that since launching in 2010, the Hip and Knee Replacement Program has:

- Reduced the average hospital stay for patients from 4.9 days for hip replacements and 4.6 days for knee replacements, to 4.1 days for both.
- Freed up about 33,000 days of hospital bed space, enabling AHS to perform more than 1,600 additional hip and knee surgeries with the same bed capacity.
- Reduced the wait time between the decision to have surgery and the surgery date by 12 per cent.
- Improved the patient satisfaction rate from 86 per cent to 98 per cent.
- Decreased the hospital readmission rate following surgery from 4.3 per cent to 4.1 per cent.

The Team

The Hip and Knee Replacement Program is a key initiative of the Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network and is led by Zone operational teams with the support of ABJHI.