

Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4)
Common Procedures Report Summary • October 2020 through September 2021 Data

The *Common Procedures Report* released by the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4) provides information about the performance of Pennsylvania hospitals for three common procedures. Reported are hospital ratings for outcomes such as complications and extended postoperative length of stay. Also included are volume of cases and hospital charges. Statewide trends and statistics are also examined.

Based on adult patients discharged from Pennsylvania's general acute care hospitals from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, this report includes results for the following common procedures: spinal fusion, total hip replacement and total knee replacement. Cases with a diagnosis of COVID-19 were not included in the report.

In this report, 13,296 hospitalizations were examined for patients who underwent spinal fusion surgery from October 2020 through September 2021. On average, patients stayed in the hospital 3.2 days following the spinal fusion procedure, and 2.4% experienced an extended postoperative length of stay, meaning they stayed in the hospital longer than expected. The average postoperative stay for these patients was 12.0 days. 1.9% of patients had an in-hospital complication and 2.0% were readmitted for a complication within 7, 30, or 90 days, depending on the type of complication.

There were 12,365 hospitalizations examined for patients who underwent a total hip replacement from October 2020 through September 2021. On average, patients stayed in the hospital 1.6 days following a total hip replacement. Of these patients, 3.8% experienced an extended postoperative length of stay. The average postoperative stay for these patients was 5.8 days. 2.0% of patients had either an in-hospital complication or a complication that developed after discharge and resulted in a readmission within 7, 30, or 90 days depending on the type of complication.

There were 17,986 hospitalizations examined for patients who underwent a total knee replacement from October 2020 through September 2021. These patients stayed in the hospital 1.7 days following a total knee replacement, and 3.1% experienced an extended postoperative length of stay. The average postoperative stay for these patients was 6.2 days. 1.5% of patients had either an in-hospital complication or a complication that developed after discharge and resulted in a readmission within 7, 30, or 90 days depending on the type of complication.



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In looking at trends in volume of inpatient cases, there was a decline in all three of these procedures over the recent eight quarters of data, from Quarter 4, 2019 to Quarter 3, 2021:

- Spinal fusion surgeries decreased 12.5%.
- Total hip replacement surgeries decreased 53.3%.
- Total knee replacement surgeries decreased 53.1%.

The decreases in total hip replacement and total knee replacement surgeries over this period reflect a shift in the location where these procedures are performed, from the inpatient to outpatient setting.