

Compliance with New Mandatory Patient Reported Outcomes Metrics for Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Will Require Significant Costs

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INTRODUCTION: Beginning in 2027, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) will decrease 25% of the Annual Payment Update if hospitals do not meet a minimum 50% of paired patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) data and substantial clinical benefit (SCB) threshold of 22 and 20 points for HOOS, JR and KOOS, JR. We sought to identify our PROMs completion rates and the potential financial penalties of not meeting the CMS mandate.

METHODS: We collected data through OBERD Outreach Module, which included 76,713 patients who underwent total hip (THA) and knee arthroplasty (TKA) between 2015-2023 across 23 hospitals. From 2015-2020, we employed a team to contact patients with incomplete PROM surveys to improve compliance. PROMs scores completed between 90 to 0 days preoperatively and 300 to 425 days postoperatively were included. Financial costs associated with active collection was estimated by summing the number of full-time staff dedicated to this role multiplied by their estimated salary. Potential financial penalization of not meeting the CMS mandate was calculated using the net patient revenue of our affiliated hospitals.

RESULTS:

Although complete paired PROMs data was below 50% across all years, patients in the contacted group (n= 47,587) had higher rates of compliance (38.5% vs 14.8%, $p < 0.001$) than the group that was not contacted from our staff (n= 29,126). SCB threshold was met across all years, with annual averages ranging from 78% to 84%. The annual cost of implementing active methods of data collection was estimated to be \$120,000 while the potential financial penalty of not meeting the mandate would be \$10,541,644 annually.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:

Complete PROMs data collection was unmet across all years, but was closer to the minimum eligibility when active collection was implemented. Given the significant financial consequences associated with not meeting this mandate, institutions must develop a cost-effective approach for low PROM compliance rates.