



Greater Baltimore Medical Center's Joint Replacement Program awarded Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Re-Certification from The Joint Commission

(Towson, Maryland, 10-6-2023) – Greater Baltimore Medical Center's Joint Replacement Program in Towson earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification in 2019. A biannual recertification event was awarded in 2021 by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards, GBMC once again secured their second recertification this year on Sept 7, 2023. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care.

The certification, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, focuses on the pre-surgical orthopedic consultation to the intraoperative, hospitalization, rehabilitation activities, and follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon.

GBMC underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review on July 11-12, 2023. During the visit, the Joint Commission reviewer evaluated compliance with related certification standards that included the use of regional anesthesia, postoperative ambulation on the day of surgery, discharge home, the patient completing their preoperative functional health assessment (PROMS), and their postoperative functional health assessment (PROMs). Under the guidance of our Joint & Spine Program, Dr. Leroy Schmidt (Medical Director), April Asuncion Higgins RN, (Joint & Spine Clinical Program Manager), and Joy Reynolds RN, (Nurse Clinical Manager U58 and Joint & Spine Program), this program assesses the level of comprehensive education and shared decision making of the total hip and total knee replacement patient throughout the entire continuum of care and includes the Care Management, Orthopaedic Clinic members, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, Intraoperative and Inpatient clinicians as members of their multidisciplinary team. The reviewer also conducted the onsite observations and interviews with patients and staff in multiple areas including Unit 58-Joint/Spine/ENT, GBMC Orthopaedic Clinic, the pre-operative area, operating room, and the post anesthesia unit.

“Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification recognizes healthcare organizations committed to striving for excellence and fostering continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of care,” says Ken Grubbs, DNP, MBA, RN, executive vice president of Accreditation and Certification Operations and chief nursing officer, The Joint Commission. “We commend GBMC's Joint Replacement Program for using The Joint Commission certification process to reduce variation in clinical processes and to strengthen its clinical program to drive safer, higher quality and more compassionate care for individuals served.”

Based on a review of compliance with current national standards, clinical guidelines, and outcomes of care, this embodies our vision at GBMC "To every patient, every time, we will provide the care that we would want for our own loved ones"