**The Problem**  
At a total joint replacement patient focus group in July 2014, patients expressed a need for more standardization throughout the process of pre-, intra-, and postoperative care. Patients felt that there was not one person who knew their unique plan of care after undergoing total joint replacement surgery. They also felt that there was a lack of information regarding expectations of pain, simple daily living, and physical therapy expectations. Additionally, there were varied expectations regarding length of stay and discharge disposition.

**Aim/Goal**  
Clinicians from, Orthopaedics, Nursing, PAT, Physical Therapy, and Case Management partnered to develop a comprehensive checklist to enhance the preparation and transition of care. The goal of the checklist is to set the expectation of the surgical process for the patient from the time of consent through the postoperative recovery. We aim to reduce the length of stay for total knee replacement from 3.5 to 3 days and reduce the length of stay for total hip replacement from 3.1 to 2.5 days. We aim to reduce the percentage of patients going to a skilled nursing facility after total knee replacement from 38% to 25% and reduce the percentage of patients going to a skilled nursing facility after total hip replacement from 34% to 25%.

**The Team**  
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Janet Lewis, RN, Clinical Director  
Stacy Lewis, Director Ambulatory Operations, Orthopaedic Surgery  
Kristina Cicelova, Graphic Designer, Media Services

**The Interventions**  
- Highlight methods for patients to receive more information, such as written materials and classroom education  
- Pre-Operative assessment by case management and physical therapy in PAT  
- Physical Therapy to start day of surgery  
- Surgeon to set expectation that patient will go home after surgery  
- Identification of high risk patients at the time of consent

**The Results/Progress to Date**  
Pilot to Start March 1, 2015

**Lessons Learned**  
Engaging participation from all disciplines, including patients, was key to the success of this project. Every stage of care, from meeting with the surgeon to the day of discharge and beyond, creates a connecting factor for continuity of care and a safe and seamless patient care experience.

**Next Steps/What Should Happen Next**  
- Educate on the purpose and use of the pathway across disciplines  
- Evaluate post-implementation outcomes, including length of stay and discharge disposition  
- Solicit continuous feedback from patients on the effectiveness of the checklist and patient satisfaction

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