

Medicare CJR Program

What You Need to Know

How Medicare pays for knee, hip and ankle replacement surgery

Knee, hip and ankle replacements are the most common major surgeries that Medicare patients need. These surgeries are common, but they can be complicated. So, it's important to coordinate every part of the operation to avoid problems. This includes care from your surgeon, hospital, care center, home health nurse or therapist and main doctor after surgery.

Research shows surgery is more successful, and you and other patients recover better, when all your health care providers work together. To help this happen more often, Medicare created a new program called Comprehensive Joint Replacement, or CJR.

What is the CJR program?

The CJR program is a new Medicare program. Its goal is to control the costs of knee, hip and ankle replacements through better teamwork. In this program, your health care providers benefit from working together to give you the best care, and preventing extra costs if possible.

Medicare counts your care from the day of your surgery until 90 days after you leave the hospital.

Why did Medicare create CJR?

Medicare pays for many knee and hip replacements, and they are expensive. Plus, more people need them today because there are more people over the age of 65. Medicare created CJR to lower the cost of knee, hip, and ankle replacement care while keeping the quality of care the same or better. You and other patients are more likely to do well if your health care providers work well together.

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How does CJR help me?

Research shows you and other patients do better when their health care providers work together. For example, they have

- Better results from surgery
- Fewer problems after surgery, such as going back to the hospital, getting an infection, taking a long time to get better or taking a long time to use their leg well again
- A better experience during their recovery

With CJR, you benefit when your surgeon, hospital, care center, home health nurse or physical therapist and main doctor all work together.

Can I still choose my doctor and hospital for joint replacement?

Yes. The Medicare CJR program does not change your doctor or other health care provider. You can still choose the surgeon and hospital you want to use, although not all hospitals are doing CJR yet.

All Portland hospitals must participate in CJR

OHSU and all other Portland hospitals, plus many others across the United States, must participate in the CJR program. Medicare created the CJR program to help health care providers do the best job of coordinating your care. They also did it to help keep health care costs under control. These are also OHSU's goals. We already coordinate care for many patients, with many different health care providers working together to care for you. Being part of the CJR program is another way that OHSU takes care of you and other patients.

Concerns after your knee, hip or ankle replacement?

OHSU wants to hear from you. If you have any concerns after your knee, hip or ankle replacement, please contact us Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 971 235-3359. After hours or on weekends, call 503 418-8889.