

# Performing Joint Replacements in Ambulatory Surgery Centers Could Help 500,000 People Avoid Overnight Hospital Stays and Save \$3 Billion Annually: Methodology and Citations

## Methodology

Outcomes reported by patients and surgeons for hip and knee replacement surgeries at Optum's Surgical Care Affiliates Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) were analyzed for procedures conducted during 2018 and 2019 at facilities performing more than 25 joint replacements in 2019. Outcome measures for hospital transfers, hospital admissions, and emergency department visits are those defined by the ASC Quality Collaboration.

Utilization and costs for hip and knee replacement surgeries were analyzed using UnitedHealthcare claims for members with employer coverage and Medicare Advantage coverage in 2018. Estimates of baseline costs, potential shifts in volume, and potential savings are based on low- and medium-severity surgeries. Costs are defined as total allowed costs—including consumer deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments—for the surgical episode, which is defined as extending from 14 days before to 42 days after the procedure and inclusive of utilization and costs directly related to the underlying surgery.

## Citations

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- <sup>11</sup> OptumCare analysis conducted in 2020 of data reported by patients and surgeons for joint replacement surgeries performed in 2018 and 2019.
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