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"Factors Enabling Outpatient Total Knee Replacements in a Rural Hospital"

Outpatient Total Knee Replacement is gradually growing in popularity in Canada as more data accumulates demonstrating improvements in safety, efficiency and patient satisfaction. Implementing an Outpatient Total Knee Replacement program requires significant coordination between care providers from myriad backgrounds and support at varying levels of hospital administration. Doing so in a small Hospital in a rural setting presents further unique challenges. This review will highlight the experience of Outpatient Total Knee Replacements in a Rural Hospital. In particular, knowledge of the factors necessary to enable this program in a rural setting will be reported.

Patient charts who had Total Knee Replacement at the Welland Hospital, Niagara Health System from April 1, 2021 to present will be reviewed to collect data on patient demographics, complications and outcomes. This data will be compared between the groups of patients who were 1) selected for Outpatient surgery and were successfully discharged the same day; 2) selected for Outpatient surgery and were not successfully discharged the same day; and 3) patients who were not selected for Outpatient surgery.

Quality Improvement points arising from a multi-disciplinary Outpatient Total Knee Replacement task force will be examined, the challenges that were encountered, what was needed to overcome the challenges, and the short term results of patients who have received treatment.