

# *Joint Commission Disease-Specific Certification >*



Disease-Specific Care Certification is one solution for hospitals looking to improve and differentiate their orthopedic programs. To that end, Accelero facilitates and manages the certification process from the beginning through to a successful conclusion – so you can realize the benefits sooner.

# Disease-Specific Care Certification >

The Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification Program is designed to evaluate clinical programs across the continuum of care for virtually any chronic disease or condition. Specific to orthopedic procedures, The Joint Commission offers individual certifications for joint replacement (ankle, hip, knee and shoulder), hand surgery, hip fracture and spine surgery.

To be eligible, a hospital or surgical center must successfully demonstrate competence in three areas:

- Compliance with consensus-based national standards.
- Effective and consistent use of appropriate, evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the designated patient population.
- Collection and analysis of a minimum of four performance measures specific to the designated patient population (a minimum of two performance measures must be clinical in nature.)

Successful programs are awarded certification for a two-year period. At the end of the first year, the organization is required to attest to its continued compliance with standards and provide evidence of performance improvement activities. To maintain certification, the cycle repeats with an on-site review conducted every two years and a bi-annual submission of an acceptable assessment of compliance by the organization.

## Benefits >

Facilities that obtain Joint Commission Disease-Specific Care Certification demonstrate a commitment to a higher standard of service based on a framework for organizational structure and management. The result is consistently high quality care that is recognized by insurers, patients and staff – providing a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Additionally, Disease-Specific Certification or a similar third-party accreditation is a pre-requisite for payer-specific designations such as Blues Distinction (Blue Cross Blue Shield) or Institutes of Quality (Aetna).



## The Process >

Due to the complexity of the process and more pressing work assignments, hospital staff can easily take up to two years to complete the disease-specific certification process. Providing discipline and direction, Accelero helps hospitals to complete the process much sooner – six months, on average.

The process begins when knowledge experts provide the background for Joint Commission Disease-Specific Certification requirements and create a detailed plan with timeline.

Next, Accelero collaborates with the hospital to define clinical practice guidelines, evaluates hospital performance elements, completes a thorough gap analysis, and defines the processes necessary for certification. Finally, Accelero helps to create and implement an education plan for staff, physicians and hospital leadership.

Throughout the process, Accelero provides valuable feedback on application status, reports, processes, presentations and compliance, ensuring the project stays on track.



## Taking the Next Step >

Disease-Specific Certification ensures the hospital provides efficient and consistently high quality care, a pre-requisite for being considered a market leader. Once certification is obtained, Accelero can also help the facility to maximize the benefits by building greater recognition and growth through:

- Distinctive brand strategy that aligns consumer values and creates differentiation.
- Targeting of consumer communities and referral sources for the greatest volume opportunity.
- Comprehensive marketing strategy and plan consisting of promotion, advertising, public relations, and digital media.

## Why Accelero Health Partners >

Accelero specializes in the design and implementation of musculoskeletal programs that create sustainable competitive advantages for hospitals and physicians. Since 1998, Accelero has helped to create over 250 market leading orthopedic programs resulting in double-digit joint replacement volume growth as early as the first year.

**Accelero has a 100% success rate for obtaining Joint Commission Disease-Specific Certification.**

# What Our Customers Are Saying >

Accelero provides our customers with the knowledge and expertise necessary to ensure certification is completed in a timely manner. If you don't believe us, ask them.

“ We pursued Disease-Specific Certification for our joint program to improve our relationship with payers. This enables us to provide effective and efficient services for bundled payment programs and create a platform to market and grow our services. Accelero helped organize our readiness assessment, timelines, and activities while increasing our reporting accountability, adding structure to communications, and providing the focus and the necessary attention to detail. Having the team onsite and available was invaluable to us. ”

■ KAREN FOLEY | Executive Director, Providence Orthopedic Institute

“ Accelero gave us the guidance and knowledge to achieve success. The process forces you, in a good way, to get very organized in your process and thinking. It requires your team to pull together for a common good and challenge itself around patient outcomes and process. The certification also gives you a great goal to work towards and creates motivation for the staff. There is no way we could have done it without them. They were always one step ahead of our thinking, anticipating problems or barriers, challenging our thinking and keeping us all on task. If you follow your template and pathway, the work is manageable and very well spread out so it is not too overwhelming. ”

■ ALEXANDRA WELCH, NP | Regional Program Director, Providence Orthopedic Institute

“ We decided to pursue DSC certification to validate our program and improve physician relations. Accelero provided a consistent vision, leadership and program awareness that went a long way to strengthen staff relations between and across departments. Their knowledge and experience with Joint Commission certification was evident in the tools and tracking mechanisms they used to keep us on schedule. Even the surgeons were engaged. ”

■ DEBBIE HARRIS | Therapy Director, CoxHealth



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