

Northwest's total joint program earns gold seal for quality of care

SHORTER HOSPITAL STAYS, BETTER OUTCOMES CITED

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The Total Joint Program at Northwest Medical Center has earned the Gold Seal of Approval for health care quality.

The Joint Commission, a not-for-profit independent organization that accredits and certifies approximately 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the U.S., awarded Northwest Medical Center its Disease-Specific Care Certification for total knee and total hip replacement surgeries.

NMC is the only hospital in Arizona to have received that designation.

"We sought this comprehensive, independent evaluation to further enhance the safety and quality of care we provide to the hundreds of patients who receive hip and knee replacements at Northwest Medical Center each year," said Paul Kappelman, chief executive officer of the hospital.

To earn the distinction, a disease management program undergoes an extensive on-site evaluation by a team of Joint Commission reviewers every two years. The program is then evaluated against the commission's standards by assessing the program's processes, its ability to evaluate and improve care, and through interviews with patients and staff.

Kappelman said the program's success "has been a collaborative effort between our orthopedic surgeons and our staff to fine-tune processes related to our total joint surgeries, including a comprehen-

sive patient education program so patients are fully prepared for the surgery and their recovery."

The result, he noted, is patients who benefit with better outcomes after knee or hip replacement procedures.

John Maltry, MD, who specializes in adult reconstructive orthopedic surgery, is one of the orthopedic surgeons who participates in the Total Joint Center. Maltry said he only does minimally invasive total knee and total hip surgeries that capitalize on using the latest in instruments and techniques.

"Minimally invasive surgery gives the same good work as in the past, but we don't cut any muscles and we make smaller incisions," Maltry said. "That translates into much shorter hospital stays for the patients."



courtesy photo

Dr. John Maltry specializes in adult reconstructive orthopedic surgery.