Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi and Mississippi Sports Medicine Partnership
Set to Deliver Innovative Orthopaedic Healthcare

JACKSON, MS - Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center (MSMOC) has partnered with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi (BCBSMS) as the first and only surgical clinic in the state to perform total knee and hip replacement surgery in an outpatient ambulatory setting. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi has also recognized the center’s facility, Madison Outpatient Surgery Center, as the state's only outpatient Orthopaedic Center of Excellence.

Traditionally, total hip and knee replacement surgeries have been performed in an inpatient (hospital) setting. Due to clinical advancements MSMOC has perfected over time in the hospital setting, their Network Surgeons are now able to deliver an optimal experience for qualified patients in the ambulatory outpatient setting. Performing knee and hip procedures in the ambulatory outpatient setting is more cost effective and allows the patient to have surgery and begin recovery at home all within the same day.

"Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi recognizes our advances in patient outcomes, satisfaction and safety for hip and knee replacement. Now, our surgeons can bring their experience and expertise to an outpatient setting," says Glen Silverman, chief executive officer at Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center headquartered in Jackson.

"Thanks to advanced, minimally-invasive surgical techniques that significantly reduce the size of the incision and computer assisted navigation, which improves the accuracy of the surgery, many patients can now have hip or knee replacement and return home the same day allowing them to recover in the comfort of their own home," says Silverman. "These advances, along with improved pain management and rapid recovery protocols developed by our fellowship-trained surgeons all help in creating a very satisfying surgical experience."

The inpatient stay for a total knee or hip replacement surgery averages between one and three days compared to five- to six- hours in the ambulatory surgery setting. The shorter length of stay enables the patient to be back home and on the road to recovery the day of surgery. Following discharge, the patient receives frequent visits from a Network Home Healthcare Provider who is in direct, constant communication with MSMOC's Network Surgeon and team designed to coordinate care.

"Providing individuals choice for where their elective surgery can be performed increases patient satisfaction and reduces costs, not only for individuals, but employers as well," says Dr. Tom Fenter, Chief Medical Officer at Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Specific criteria related to the individual's overall health and risk factors must be met for a patient to be considered for a knee and hip replacement in the ambulatory outpatient setting.
These criteria along with other supporting elements are evaluated by MSMOC's Network Surgeons.

Dr. Jeff Almand, spoke on the safety of having the procedure performed as an outpatient versus inpatient setting, "The procedure is very safe. The patient goes through a thorough screening process; we do a home visit prior to surgery to make sure the home is safe and the patient is fully educated on what to expect post-surgery. With five total joint surgeons, we always have a physician on call should patients have a question or need assistance."

In addition to improving patient experience, BCBSMS and MSMOC are moving beyond traditional fee-for-service payment models to a value-based, episode of care payment model that puts the focus on the patient and the quality of care provided. The value-based payment model (bundled billing) provides a single payment to MSMOC for all services rendered to the patient for orthopaedic services, including anesthesia, physical therapy, etc. and is tied to quality outcomes and cost-effective care. Many patients may qualify for an additional benefit of a reduced deductible and co-insurance by selecting outpatient surgery at Madison Outpatient Surgery Center.

MSMOC is the orthopaedic field pioneer as the first BCBSMS Network Provider to receive bundled payments. The joint venture launches the new outpatient Orthopaedic Center of Excellence program of BCBSMS focused on quality initiatives and enhancing the patient experience.

"Outpatient joint replacement is a major advancement in the delivery of healthcare for all Mississippians and will pave the way for a new national standard," says Silverman.

**About Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center**
Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center (MSMOC) is Mississippi's only full-service orthopaedic specialty practice. A one-stop solution, MSMOC offers orthopaedic and athletic-related injury urgent care services, clinical examinations, surgical repair/replacements, rehabilitation, and performance sports training. Utilizing state-of-the-art technologies and equipment alongside the latest procedures, the sub-specialized physicians at MSMOC guide patients from diagnosis to recovery.

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