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PLANNING FOR SUCCESS: MAXIMIZING QUALITY AND OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS UNDERGOING HIP AND KNEE ARTHROPLASTY

Hip and knee arthroplasty utilization continues to grow as our population ages. As the number of arthroplasty surgeries grows, so does the cost and future morbidity for the patient and the health system. We describe a systematic approach to risk management, patient evaluation, cost containment that allowed the creation of an arthroplasty program that was marketed to corporations with large numbers of potential arthroplasty patients. We track the pre and post-operative outcomes of the patients to demonstrate improved function, decreased pain and value to the patient and the insurer. By minimizing complications in this patient population, we were able to benefit both the patient and our health system.

Biography

Mathew Nicholls is a Practicing Orthopaedic Surgeon at Virginia Mason in Seattle Washington. He has completed his Graduation from the University of Kentucky, school of Medicine where he also completed his Residency in Orthopaedic Surgery. He also holds a PhD in Biochemistry and does research in non-operative treatment of osteoarthritis with multiple publications in this field. He treats conditions of the hip/knee and shoulder and works to optimize the efficient delivery of health care.

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