

SALEM ORTHOPAEDIC GROUP, P.C.

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Marc P. Volavka, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council  
225 Market Street  
Suite 400  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: Total Hip and Knee Replacements report

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting comments on patients that were readmitted to the hospital after surgery.

One of the patients, had a GI bleed and esophageal achalasia secondary to post-op pain medication and anticoagulation.

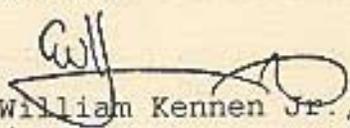
Two of the patients, had post-op DVT even though they were on post op prophylactic anticoagulation. This is a known complication.

Two other patients, had deep wound infections requiring removal of their prosthesis and antibiotic treatment of their infection. All had subsequent resolution of their infection and succesful revision to a successful total knee replacement.

Five patients had cellulitis. I elected for agressive inpatient hospitalization and treatment with antibiotics verses out patient treatment with oral antibiotics. The patients underwent agressive treatment with hospitalization and IV antibiotics, which prevented a deep infection and subsequent removal of the implant. These five patients increased my post-op hospitalization numbers, putting my numbers above the statistical mean as calculated. I believe that agressive post-op treatment prevents more severe complication, and represents a safer level of care.

If you should have any further questions please contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
E. William Kennen Jr., D.O.  
EWK/emd