

A Journey to Gold: Champion Driven Model

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Introduction

In 2024, Stanford Orthopedics applied for the Joint Commission Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Knee Replacement (THKR).

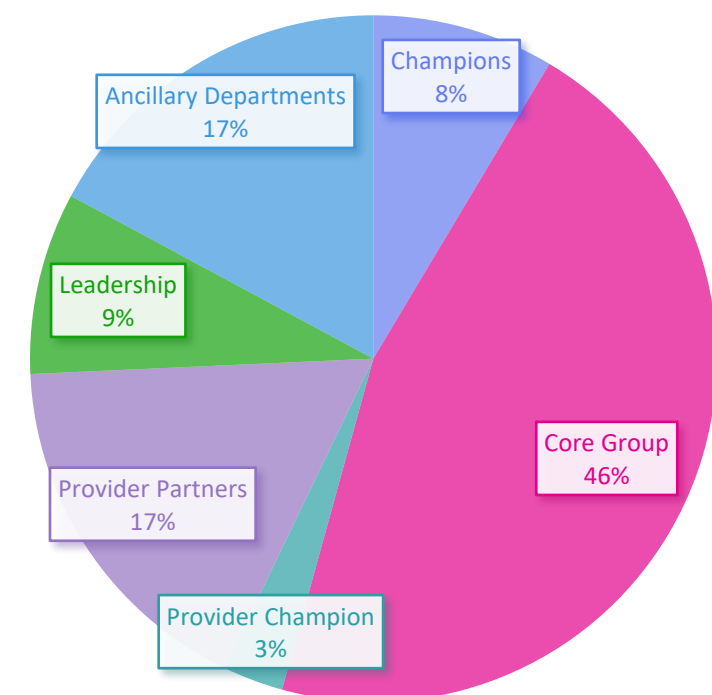
By pursuing this certification, Stanford Orthopedics committed to

- evidenced-based practices by implementing protocols and guidelines,
- patient-centered care from pre-operative education to post-operative recovery,
- multidisciplinary collaboration across various specialties,
- quality improvement initiatives and continuous monitoring.

The certification, offered in collaboration with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, focuses on pre-surgical orthopedic consultation to the intraoperative, hospitalization, rehabilitation activities, and follow-up visit with the orthopedic surgeon. Stanford Medicine (2024)

In the pursuit of advanced certification, the interventional platform utilized the concept of **nurse champions**. The term 'champion' first appeared in literature in 1990, highlighting the important role these dedicated professionals play in driving quality improvement and implementing best practices in healthcare.

CORE TJC THKR CERTIFICATION TEAM



Cited Literature

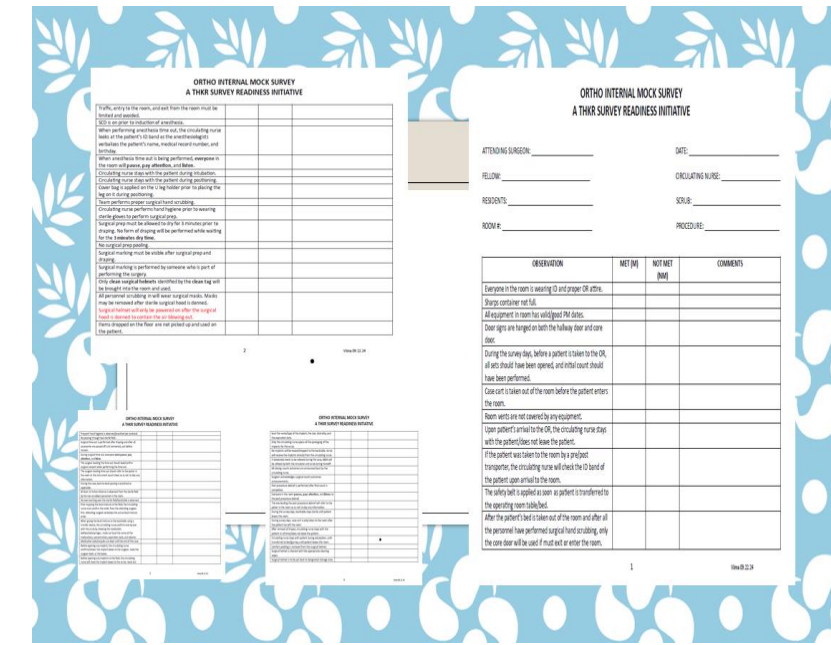
The Joint Commission. (n.d.). *Orthopedic Certification*. <https://www.jointcommission.org/en-us/certification/orthopedic>
 Quiroga-Pico, L. N., Aceros-Lora, A. M., Diaz-Castaneda, T. M., & Rojas, L. Z. (2024, May1). *Nurse Champions: Transforming Evidence*. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11806994/>
 Stanford Medicine, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. (2024). *Stanford Orthopaedics awarded Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification from The Joint Commission*. <https://ortho.stanford.edu>

Methods

February 2024, a **nurse champion** model was chosen to drive the initiative. **Nurse champions** collaborated with physician champions, leadership, quality and education departments to ensure a comprehensive standardized approach.

Nurse champion responsibilities included

- verifying competency,
- conducting literature review,
- assessing evidence-based practice,
- providing in-services,
- creating and validating workflows.



In the OR:

- Specific competencies were reviewed, organized in a single server, categorized, and alphabetized for easy access.
- 4 in-services were conducted for the orthopedic team.
- A 4-page internal mock survey tool used in 11 surprise audits.
- Potential TJC survey questions were developed and used.

In the Pre/Postoperative areas:

- Documentation workflows were reviewed to ensure alignment with certification standards and to address practice variations.
- Communication was identified as a key driver of throughput and care quality.
- Postoperative nurses partnered with physical therapy to streamline evaluations for timely patient mobilization.
- Handoff practices were also enhanced, with the implementation of standardized, face-to-face RN-to-RN transitions from Preop to OR and OR to PACU to support safe, coordinated care.

Results

- The **nurse champion** model ensured peer accountability.
- 100% of OR, Pre-op and PACU staff completed individualized education and demonstrated competency.
- Certification process enhanced best practices.
- Staff engagement increased.



Stanford Orthopaedics earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement Certification by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. The Gold Seal is a symbol of quality that reflects a health care organization's commitment to providing safe and quality patient care. Stanford Medicine (2024)



Conclusion

- The concept of "**nurse champions**" is a vital component in driving quality improvement and implementing best practices in healthcare settings.
- **Nurse champions** are typically experienced nurses who take on leadership roles in promoting evidence-based practices, enhancing patient care, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement within the organizations.
- **Nurse champions'** leadership and advocacy can lead to improved patient outcomes, enhanced staff engagement, and a more effective healthcare system.

The certification journey, and use of the champion model provided nurses with opportunities to assess individual practice, identify variations, and actively influence changes in practice and the clinical environment. This certification is a commitment to ongoing performance improvement and adherence to quality measures.



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