

2009 Practice Analysis

Tallahassee Neurological Clinic – Neurosurgical Group

Tallahassee Neurological Clinic (TNC) and Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH) combine to aggressively ensure quality healthcare. Results are compiled by TMH's Department for Organization Improvement and Planning.

TNC Neurosurgical Group has continued to conduct an aggressive Quality and Improvement focus over the years with an intense concentration on functional outcomes since 2008. Results compare favorably with national and state averages.

ELECTIVE PROCEDURES OF THE SPINE

Rankings compared to the state of Florida, and nationally, using the Thomson Reuters comparative database. Thomson Reuters databases are developed to include effectiveness, quality and cost of care, health information, technology advances, clinical decision support, and prevention and wellness. Government and private organizations rely on these databases to provide practical solutions for improving healthcare access, enhancing quality, and reducing costs.

Costs associated with outpatient surgery compare favorably with state and national averages	
Low Inpatient costs	Top 25%
Shortest Length of Stay	Top 25%

These trends have been sustained for multiple years.

COMPARATIVES SHOW THAT TNC ELECTIVE SPINE SURGERIES ARE APPROPRIATE

- Patient selection criteria utilized by the group for spine surgery are consistent with those followed by Spine Centers of Excellence
- Multiple treatment options are part of the practice prior to the recommendation of surgery on the spine
- Patients are screened for depression as recommended by Spine Center of Excellence Programs

QUALITY OF CARE

Complications and Mortality rates continue to compare at or near best practice at State and National levels.

Complications Index is Below 1	Not as many complications occurred as were expected for the population of patients
Mortality Index is Below 1	Not as many mortalities occurred as were expected for the population of patients
Low Readmission Rates	Top 10%
Compliance with CMS Standards for Surgical Case Infection Prevention is consistently high	
0 "Never Events" or incidents of AHRQ patient safety indicator occurrences during the previous	15 months

"Never Events" are 28 occurrences on a U.S. list of inexcusable outcomes in a health care setting. They are defined as "adverse events that are serious, largely preventable, and of concern to both the public and health care providers for the purpose of public accountability". Examples are patient death or serious disability associated with a medication error and surgery performed on the wrong body part.

AHRQ is The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. One role of the agency is to act as the regulator for patient safety. Patient safety indicators reflect quality of care inside hospitals, but focus on potentially avoidable complications and adverse events.

PATIENT OUTCOMES

TNC and TMH have made a commitment to follow patient outcomes for up to one year after surgery. *No other group in Tallahassee has shown this commitment.* The group began the tradition in June 2008 of measuring outcomes of spine surgery in their patient population. Each patient who will undergo spine surgery is asked to complete an SF-36 (Quality of Life) Survey before the procedure, at 90 days post-surgery and 1 year after surgery. TMH is responsible for collecting the data and comparing TNC's results to published research on the topic.

RESULTS: *Patients have an improvement in Quality of Life after elective spinal surgeries*

- **Patients under 60 years of age showed 100% overall improvement**
- **Patients over 60 years of age showed > 85% overall improvement**
- **98% of patients (across all age groups) reported a reduction in pain level and/or increased function post spine surgery**