

# 2010 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.

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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 were 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.

TNC in combination with TMH - lowest facility cost & charges	Top 10%
Low Inpatient costs	Top 25%
Shortest Length of Stay for Inpatients	Top 25%

Elective surgery (inpatient and outpatient) data shows that patients spend on average, less than 36 hours in the hospital and are able to return to their home setting, and recover rapidly.

### **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

Elective Spine Procedures indicate a high level of **EXCELLENCE** and **BEST PRACTICE** Complications and Mortality rates 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	Exceeds National Standards
Low Infection Rate for Elective Spine procedures	Top 10%
0 “Never Events” or incidents of AHRQ patient safety indicator occurrences during the previous	24 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 Neurosurgical Group 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 Neurosurgical Group’s results to published research on the topic.

#### **RESULTS:** *Patients have an improvement in pain relief after elective spinal surgeries*

- **> 85% of patients** (across all age groups and insurance type) **reported an improvement in overall physical function**
- **> 95% of patients** (across all age groups and insurance type) **reported a reduction in pain level post spine surgery**