

BACKGROUND

Altru Health System is a community owned system. Altru's facilities include a 240-bed acute care hospital, a 40-bed rehabilitation hospital, 14 clinics across eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota, and a retirement community for senior citizens (Parkwood Place).



KEY CHALLENGES

- High degree of variation in physician clinical protocols and standard order sets
- Lack of alignment between administration and surgeons around a common vision
- Outmigration of orthopaedic cases
- Lack of dedicated nursing and therapy staff
- Length of Stay above national average
- Delayed initiation of physical therapy services

THE SOLUTION

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THE ALTRU FOUR YEAR RESULTS

Initiative	2010	2014	Improvement
Successfully implemented Best Practice Protocols			
Length of stay Knee	3.7	2.6	1.1 day decrease
Length of stay Hip	4.3	2.6	1.7 days decrease
Physical Therapy initiated on day of surgery			
Achieved Blue Distinction Center designation for both Knee and Hip Replacement			

Designated as a

Blue Distinction[®] Center+
for Knee and Hip Replacement



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