Medicare Total Knee Replacement Example of Wording

* Admission as an inpatient is reasonable and necessary due to increased risk of surgery due to the factors indicated below or to the need for prolonged in-hospital or skilled post-acute care in order to improve this patient’s functional ability.

**Comorbid conditions increasing perioperative surgical risk:**

* Uncontrolled Diabetes. Recent HbgA1C value pulled from documentation.
* Hypertension- either poorly controlled or requiring multiple medications for control. Recent BP value pulled from documentation.
* COPD. Treated with (multi-select):
  + Home oxygen
  + Steroid dependent
  + Regularly scheduled Inhalers / nebulizers
  + Other (comment box / \*\*\*)
* Cardiovascular Disease
  + CAD
  + Stroke
  + Other (comment box / \*\*\*)
* Anesthesia ASA Score of 3 or higher with factors indicated in anesthesia documentation. (must be documented in the anesthesia encounter).
* Anemia Hb<10. Recent Hb value pulled from documentation.
* Age 85 years or older.
* Morbid obesity, BMI equal or greater than 40.
  + OSA screening tool score ‘at risk’ greater than/equal to 5

Increased risk of adverse outcomes (check all that apply):

* Respiratory decompensation
* Wound healing or infection issues
* Less than optimal ambulatory status
* Pain management issues
* Further renal impairment with underlying chronic kidney disease
* An acute cardiac event
* Medication adjustments requiring close monitoring until therapeutic
* Blood loss monitoring beyond normal post-operative care
* Complex surgical approach or situation anticipated.
* Presence of drug related risks due to underlying polypharmacy
* History of opioid dependency.

**Need for skilled care post-hospital**

* Patient has inadequate outpatient care situation(s):
* Patient lives remote from medical facility with inadequate resources in area Patient will have post procedure incapacitation and has inadequate assistance at home.
* Alternative level of care cannot be arranged.
* Patient does not have competent person to stay with him/her post-operatively to ensure patient safety.