Medicare Total Joint 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 to improve this patient’s functional ability.

**Surgical Complexity**

* More complex intraoperative surgery anticipated due to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Comorbid conditions increasing perioperative surgical risk:**

* Poorly controlled Diabetes. HbA1C = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Hypertension- either poorly controlled or requiring multiple medications for control.
* COPD/Asthma/OSA. Treated with (multi-select):
	+ Home oxygen
	+ Steroid dependent
	+ Regularly scheduled Inhalers / nebulizers
	+ CPAP
	+ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Cardiovascular Disease
	+ CAD
	+ Stroke
	+ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ Anesthesia ASA Score of 3 or higher with factors indicated in anesthesia documentation

Note: ASA 3 is not automatically inpatient – must be supported with clinical factors documented

* Anemia Hb<10.
* 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
* 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
* Presence of drug related risks due to underlying polypharmacy
* History of opioid dependency.

**Need for prolonged hospital stay beyond POD #1**

* Baseline gait/balance issues warranting prolonged in-hospital therapy- specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Medical comorbidities requiring close monitoring – specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other factors \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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.
* Patient does not have competent person to stay with him/her post-operatively to ensure patient safety.