Surgical Outcomes - Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus uses three key strategies to ensure high-quality surgical outcomes. These strategies include data-driven decision making, program standardization and use of known best practices. The tactics they use to implement these strategies include:

- Checklists to aid nurses in appropriate antibiotic selection and ensure appropriate administration prior to incision;
- Nurse-driven protocols to improve timeliness of workflow and select standard processes;
- Surgical order sets to cue physicians to select the recommended VTE prophylaxis;
- Retrospective case review and follow-up with providers and surgical team members;
- Strong partnership with the Prairie Ridge Health Clinic Orthopedic Excellence Program, which includes:
  - Prior to surgery, joint replacement group meetings provide an overview surgical intervention expectations and recovery.
  - Peer to peer support during hospital stay where patients cohort in a select unit of the hospital to encourage them to engage in a competitive, safe and supportive environment of healing.
  - Each orthopedic unit team member is provided education on post-surgical care specific to joint replacements to facilitate ease of addressing patient questions and comfort with expected outcomes.
- Care is standardized to best practices related to anesthesia and post-operative pain control, which allows patients to become mobile sooner while reducing medication side effects such as dizziness, unsteady gait and confused. As a result, joint replacement patients experience:
  - Less pain when rising and walking; 96 percent of patients report mild to no pain when walking;
  - Fewer days in the hospital: average length of stay is 2.2 days, which is 1.0 days fewer than the national average;
  - More patient discharges directly to home: 88 percent of patients are discharged directly to home as opposed to 66 percent nationally; and,
  - Patients walk further and longer: many walk an average of 500 feet prior to discharge.

Organizational data transparency has been key to the successes of Columbus Community Hospital’s surgical program. Monthly data review and subsequent sharing throughout the organization reinforces the culture of transparency, accountability, high quality outcomes and patient safety. For more information contact Rob Pasbrig, director of quality, at RPasbrig@cch-inc.com.