



SAINT FRANCIS
Hospital and Medical Center



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**The Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute Introduces Innovative
“Step Ahead” Plan**

The “Step Ahead” Plan for Total Hip and Knee Replacement includes a basket of goods and services for a single package price with a warranty.

(Hartford, CT) - *The Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center (CJRI)* is pleased to announce the establishment of a comprehensive, fully integrated basket of care program for Primary Hip and Knee Replacement surgery.

The “*Step Ahead*” Plan at CJRI is a collaborative effort between Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, The Connecticut Joint Replacement Surgeons LLC, and Woodland Anesthesiology Associates, P.C., and represents implementation of standardized best practices and protocols for the delivery of high-quality care. The plan offers a clinically integrated package of healthcare services from the Hospital, the orthopedic surgeons of CJRI, and affiliated anesthesiologists in a single package price for these services, combined with a warranty for surgical site complications.

“We are thrilled to be able to offer *Step Ahead* to our patients requiring Total Joint Replacement Surgery. This program allows patients to receive a package of integrated healthcare goods and services from multiple providers for which reimbursement is bundled into a single, comprehensive payment,” explained Steven Schutzer, M.D., Co-Director, CJRI.

“The *Step Ahead* Plan is based on superior outcomes and the quality data from our Total Joint Registry. A unique feature of *Step Ahead* is the warranty that will be provided to patients covering post-operative surgical site complications,” said Robert McAllister, M.D., Co-Director, CJRI.

“This innovative and visionary program is yet another demonstration of why CJRI is the leading joint replacement program in Connecticut,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, Saint Francis’ President and Chief Executive Officer.

To learn more about “*Step Ahead*,” contact Maureen Geary, Program Director at (860) 714-4861.

The Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute at Saint Francis opened in July, 2007, and provides patients with the highest quality, most comprehensive, efficient, state-of-the-art joint replacement treatments in a compassionate and caring environment. Functioning as a “hospital within a hospital,” CJRI has a Total Joint Replacement Registry with over 7,000 patients that has reported outcomes data for continued quality improvement initiatives and provides the platform for the “*Step Ahead*” Plan.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.