Purpose: Our hospital is a level one trauma center performing over 100 surgical cases daily. Our PACU was asked to proactively participate on a multidisciplinary team within the hospital with the goal of establishing Certification by Joint Commission for Hip and Knee Joint Replacements.

Implementation: Monthly interdisciplinary meetings were initiated with staff, division leadership, surgeons and hospital safety members participating. The team followed an action plan to identify work flow, completion dates, and identification of responsible parties. PACU specifics were detailed to before and after surgical care. Opportunities to streamline nuances specific to this patient population such as DVT prophylaxis and timing of antibiotic administration were identified early. Although orientation and yearly competencies were already incorporated into the care of joint patients, additional modules for education such as hip precautions and Post-operative complications were added. PACU staff participated in “mock survey” reviews to increase awareness of potential questions asked.

Outcome: Strong collaborative relationships were built between all divisions as preparation of survey readiness occurred. Unified by a common goal and vision, multiple disciplines participated to maximum capacity. Our hospital embraced the success of passing the Joint Commission review. Strong, lean processes placed prior to the review have been sustained.