



5 TIPS for Engaging Primary Care in TEAM

With TEAM's focus on improving surgical recoveries and costs in major hospital-based surgeries, it's easy to miss the importance of primary care physicians. But their role is essential for meeting TEAM's objective to improve patient recovery and lower costs in the five major types of surgery. Why? Because one of the biggest indicators of a patient's status during and following surgery is their health status and preparation going into the surgical suite.

Surgical practices are generally not equipped to do the kind of preoperative preparation needed for major surgery, including the procedures covered by TEAM, such as a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) or lower extremity joint replacements (LEJR). Here are Roji's TIPS for optimizing the patient's preoperative health status and ensuring that their primary care physician can smoothly transition the patient after discharge:

- 1. Plan TEAM surgeries with your clinical team to include primary care physician involvement prior to surgery, whenever possible.** When your surgical scheduling process identifies a new TEAM episode, you should identify the patient's primary care physician for contact.
- 2. For each of the TEAM surgeries, work with your clinical teams to establish the list of tests, therapies, or pre-treatments that each patient should have,** and convey these to your list of primary care physicians.
- 3. Include primary care physicians in Collaborative Agreements so that they are invested in TEAM,** especially if they are outside your employed network or ACO but are high referrers to your specialists.
- 4. If you have an ACO, use its population health function to manage the scheduling process for patients pre-surgically,** including patient education and referrals to any outside services such as Physical Therapy, smoking cessation, and other ancillary services. If the patient is an ACO patient, establish a process to share information on chronic conditions or issues with the clinical team.
- 5. Work with your specialists to ensure that surgery reports and hospitalization events are transmitted to primary care physicians** during the hospitalization process.

We're ready to help you make TEAM successful. [Roji TEAM Episodes](#) are mapped to specifications CMS has provided. Investigate the nexus of cost and quality with Episodes of Care. [Contact Roji Health Intelligence](#) to ensure peak performance.

