

How to use the Total Joint Arthroplasty and Outcome Measures (TJAOM) Discharge Letter Template and Appendices

The TJAOM Discharge Letter Template and Appendices has 4 components:

- Sample discharge letter
- Inventory of phrases to guide interpretation
- Examples of optional formats for phrases
- Normative and reference values

Here are the steps for how you can use this resource:

1. Start with the Sample discharge letter
2. Add your clinic/worksite logo and address
3. Add details about the patient (name, DOB, diagnosis etc.) and treatment provided
4. Enter into the table the names of the outcome measures that you used from the 'Recommended Outcome Measures along the TJA Continuum'. It is recommended that you use at least one PROM (patient reported outcome measure, e.g. LEFS) and one Performance Measure (e.g. Single Leg Stance).
5. Enter into the table the results (scores) at admission and discharge. You may also add the 'percentage change' in the final column (difference in score at discharge and admission divided by score at admission multiplied by 100).
6. Interpret the results
 - a. Cut and paste phrases from Appendix A (Inventory of phrases) below the table that describe the result. For example, if you used Gait Speed you could add the phrase "The change in self-selected walking speed is/is not clinically important as it exceeds/does not exceed the minimal clinically important difference (MCID) value of 0.1 m/sec". Note: you can choose a different format from Appendix B (optional formats) such as circling the best response, filling the blank, checking the box or a descriptive phrase.
 - b. Consider adding a statement about how the result compares to normative or reference data from Appendix C. For example, if you used the 30 second Chair Stand Test for a 69 year old patient with a THA, and she completed 14, using the information in the table provided on page 5, you could add a statement that her performance on this test is comparable to women of the same age who have not had a THA.