Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

January 10, 2017

Dear UVA Orthopedics Patient:

Thank you for choosing UVA Orthopedics for your care. Every day, we work to provide the highest-quality care and service to all of our patients. There is an ongoing national conversation about patient safety for patients receiving joint replacements. It is our priority that you understand the importance of quality and outcomes in your decision to choose a surgeon.

Knee and hip replacements are two of the most commonly performed elective operations. For the majority of patients, joint replacement surgery relieves pain and helps them to live fuller, more active lives. However, no surgical procedure is without risks. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons reports that a small percentage of patients undergoing hip or knee replacement — 1 percent — may develop an infection after the operation.

Over the past three years for which we have complete data (2013-2015), our specialty trained surgeons performed more than 3,100 joint replacements, which includes first surgeries and revisions. Across this time period, UVA has had an infection rate associated with joint replacement procedures of 0.9 percent. This is below the national average, even as UVA cares for patients with the most complex health needs who are more vulnerable to complications. Our experienced surgeons perform the full spectrum of joint replacement procedures, including some of the most difficult surgeries in the state referred to UVA from community hospitals.

In addition to our own patient outcome monitoring, others review and evaluate our performance. U.S. News & World Report, which uses clinical outcomes to determine its rankings and ratings, has ranked UVA as the top hospital in Virginia and UVA Orthopedics as high performing — among the top 10 percent in the nation — for orthopedic care. U.S. News has also rated UVA Orthopedics as high performing — the best possible rating — for hip and knee replacements.

Health insurer BlueCross BlueShield has honored UVA Orthopedics as a Blue Distinction Center for knee and hip replacement. According to the insurer, Blue Distinction Centers are hospitals and outpatient centers that excel in delivering safe, effective treatment for specialty procedures. UVA is also certified by the Joint Commission, a national accrediting group for hospitals, in both hip and knee replacements.

Becker’s Hospital Review, a national healthcare publication, named UVA to its 2016 list of 100 hospitals with great orthopedic programs. According to the publication, “the hospitals included on this list are national leaders in orthopedic care.”

If you would like to see more information about our doctors and clinical programs, please visit our website at uvahealth.com/ortho. If you have any questions, please ask your care team during your appointment.

Respectfully,

A. Bobby Chhabra, MD
Lillian T. Pratt Distinguished Professor and Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery