

# CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN NEURO SPINE SURGERY

In partnership with key opinion leaders and industry professionals, SRC developed the Center of Excellence in Neuro Spine Surgery (COENSS) program. The COENSS program identifies surgeons and facilities worldwide performing neurosurgeries and achieving defined standards for patient safety and care quality.



## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### 1. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The applicant facility is committed to excellence in neuro spine surgery and has credentialing and privileging guidelines in neuro spine surgery.

### 2. SURGICAL EXPERIENCE

The applicant facility performs at least 300 qualifying neuro spine surgeries annually. Each applicant surgeon performs at least 150 qualifying neuro spine surgeries annually and 300 neuro spine surgeries in their lifetime.

### 3. PHYSICIAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The applicant facility must appoint a Physician Program Director for the COENSS program who is accredited or in the process of becoming accredited.

### 4. CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

The applicant facility must have a full complement of consultative services required for the routine and intensive care of neuro spine surgery patients and their potential complications including: anesthesiologist or CRNA, ACLS-certified physician or team, critical care specialist, hospitalist, cardiologist, pulmonologist, general surgeon, vascular surgeon, radiologist, physical therapist/occupational therapist, rehabilitation physician and an infectious disease specialist.

### 5. EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS

The applicant facility must maintain a full line of equipment and surgical instruments to provide perioperative care for neuro spine surgery patients and have documented training for appropriate staff in the safe operation of this equipment.

### 6. SURGEON DEDICATION AND QUALIFIED CALL COVERAGE

Each applicant surgeon has privileges in orthopedic spine or neuro spine surgery at the applicant facility, is board-certified or an active candidate for board certification in orthopedic spine or neuro spine surgery and has qualified call coverage. Each applicant completes at least 12 hours of CME focused on orthopedic spine or neuro spine surgery every three years.

### 7. CLINICAL PATHWAYS AND STANDARDIZED OPERATING PROCEDURES

Applicants formally develop and implement all required clinical pathways that facilitate the standardization of perioperative care for neuro spine surgery procedures. Clinical pathways are supported by standardized preoperative, postoperative and discharge physician order sets.

### 8. SURGICAL TEAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

For each department seeking accreditation, the facility is required to have a designated program coordinator, along with nurses, physician extenders, and a consultative team. This team must be committed to providing high-quality patient care and participate in ongoing, regularly scheduled in-service education sessions to uphold accreditation standards.

### 9. PATIENT EDUCATION

The facility and each applicant surgeon provide all neuro spine surgery patients with preoperative patient education, have a process for obtaining informed surgical consent and selecting procedures that are most appropriate for each patient's condition.

### 10. CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSESSMENT

All applicants must collect prospective outcomes data on all patients who undergo neuro spine surgery in SRC's Outcomes Database.

This is a summarized list of program requirements which is subject to change. For additional information, please contact SRC by emailing [businessdevelopment@surgicalreview.org](mailto:businessdevelopment@surgicalreview.org) or calling 919.438.2156.