

David Armando Fernandez, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.A.O.S.

Board-Certified Orthopedic Spine Surgeon | Fellowship-Trained

Professional Summary

Fellowship-trained, board-certified orthopedic spine surgeon with over 30 years of experience in clinical practice, medical directorship, and utilization management. Skilled in independent medical review, peer-to-peer case evaluation, and quality improvement. Experienced expert witness.

Certifications & Licensure

- Diplomate, American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery – Certified 1998, Recertified 2009, 2021
 - Fellow, American College of Surgeons
 - Fellow, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
 - Arizona Medical License (Active)
 - California Medical License (Active)
 - Colorado Medical License (Active)
 - Florida Medical License (Active)
 - Idaho Medical License (Active)
 - Michigan Medical License (Active); IMLCC Compact Eligible
 - Minnesota Medical License (Active)
 - North Carolina Medical License (Active)
 - Texas Medical License (Active)
 - Utah Medical License (Active)
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Relevant Professional Experience

2026 Consulting

Physician Reviewer (Utilization Management) – Optum Health

2025 – 2026

- Conduct medical necessity reviews for orthopedic and spine cases.
- Apply evidence-based guidelines to payer-side utilization decisions.
- Provide peer-to-peer consultation with requesting providers.

Medical Director – Specialty Medical Center & Universal Surgery Center, MI

2023 – 2025

- Directed surgical program operations and compliance with payer/quality standards.
- Oversaw peer review, utilization, and quality assurance processes.

Private Orthopedic Spine Practice, Partner – OrthoMichigan, Flint, MI

1999 – 2023

- Led a busy spine practice performing complex reconstructive spine surgery.
- Participated in Michigan Spine Surgery Improvement Collaborative (MSSIC) to drive quality outcomes.
- Medical Director, Spine Program, McLaren Regional Medical Center

Attending Surgeon – Department of Orthopedics, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD

1994 – 1999

Independent Medical Review & Expert Witness Experience

- Extensive record review for peer-to-peer utilization decisions and disability cases.
- Participation in IME and QME assessments (Michigan & federal systems).
- Available for medico-legal case review, deposition, and testimony.

Selected Publications (Representative)

- Peace A, Halalmeh D, Fernandez D. *Osteomyelitis and Discitis of the Spine: Pediatric Patients*. Elsevier, 2025.
- Hammond JM, Tarakji B, Stewart T, Fernandez D, et al. *Traction load, tong position, and cervical spine loading*. Proc Inst Mech Eng H. 2020.
- Kubacki MR, Verioti CA, Fernandez D, Atkinson PJ. *Angle Stable Nails Improve Healing in Complex Femur Fractures*. Clin Orthop Relat Res. 2014.

Selected Lectures & Presentations

- *Spinal Development and Pertinent Anatomy* – Orthopedic Grand Rounds, McLaren, 2011
- *Treatment of Thoracolumbar Spine Fractures* – Techniques in Spine Trauma Surgery, Aspen, CO, 2010

Military Service

Commander, Medical Corps – U.S. Naval Reserve (Active Duty 1993–1999)

- National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD
- Awarded Navy Achievement Medal for humanitarian missions in Haiti

Professional Memberships

- North American Spine Society
- American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
- American College of Surgeons
- Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society

Languages

- English
- Spanish