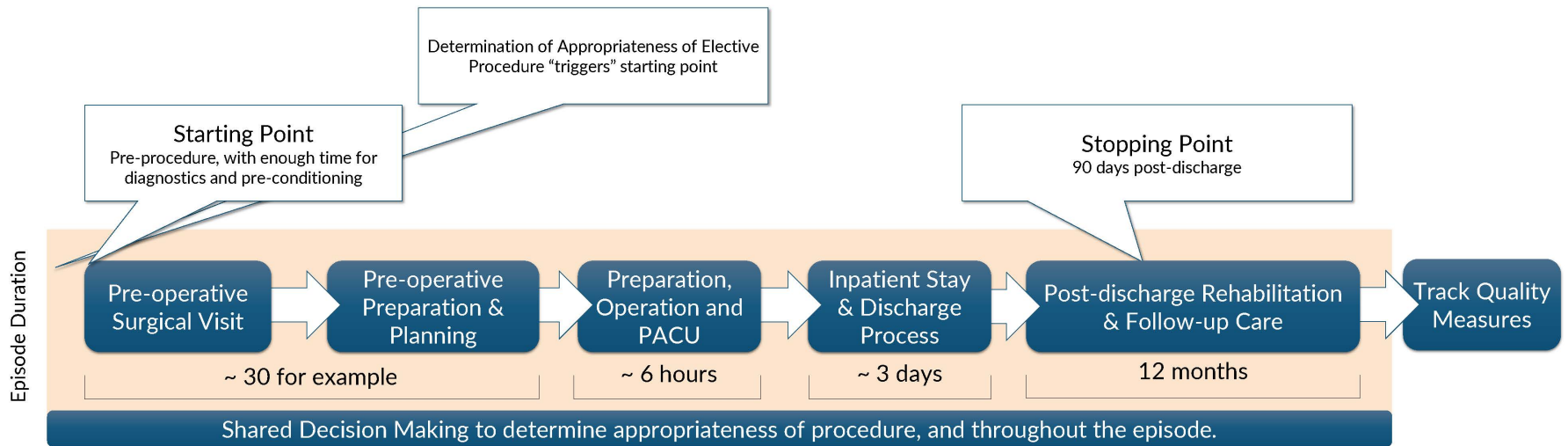


Figure 4: Episode Timing



Source: Derived from Premier, Inc., and Institute for Healthcare Improvement. *Integrated Care Pathway for Total Joint Arthroplasty*. Charlotte, NC: Premier, Inc. and Cambridge, MA: Institute for Healthcare Improvement; 2013. (Available at www.premierinc.com and www.ihl.org)

Optimally, the start and end points of an episode of care should be established based on the time when unwarranted (i.e. not evidence-based) variation in care begins and ends and when the opportunity to impact quality and outcomes is greatest.