

Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

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46

Number of hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

326

Total number of ON-SQIN members

31

Number of teams that created a 2018/19 SQIP

41

Number of 2019/20 SQIPs in progress

23

Percent of active surgical group members on Quorum

42

Number of mentoring relationships that have been formed through ON-SQIN

NSQIP-ON: National Surgical Quality Improvement Program - Ontario

SQIP: Surgical Quality Improvement Plan

ON-SQIN: Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

NSQIP: National Surgical Quality Improvement Program

Highlights



General surgeons at Grand River Hospital, from left to right: Bogdan Paun, Monica Torres, Michael Saunders, Mohamed Husien, Koroush Madani, Mathew Kilmurry, Dan Charleton. Photo credit: Grand River Hospital. Reprinted with permission.

• Cornwall Community Hospital has just joined ON-SQIN—welcome! This brings the total number of NSQIP Ontario teams to 46, more than doubling the number of teams that started with the program in 2015. Now, 76% of surgeries in Ontario take place in an ON-SQIN hospital.

• The Cut the Count: Reducing Opioids After Surgery [campaign](#) is well underway. The provincial target is a 30% reduction in pills prescribed after surgery, decreasing the number of pills in the public domain that may be used inappropriately while helping patients effectively manage pain.*

• Read our latest [blog](#) by Health Quality Ontario's Provincial Surgeon Lead, Tim Jackson, and VP of Quality Improvement, Lee Fairclough, to learn more about the impetus behind the opioid-reduction campaign and how teams can implement evidence-based change ideas to address pain management after surgery.

• Family physicians are vital in making sure patients do not rely on opioids as they continue their post-surgical recovery process. Listen to our new [podcast](#), featuring Dr. Jackson and Dr. Tiffany Florindo, a family physician in North York, to hear their perspectives on supporting effective pain management for patients after surgery.

• The Ontario Surgical Network is one of the top Communities of Practice on Quorum! In the previous quarter, our active member rate—a percentage value that indicates how many members are commenting or posting—was 23%, the highest among all groups and 10% higher than the average rate of all groups on [Quorum](#). We encourage all our members to continue using the platform as a place to share resources and ideas, and post questions for the group, and look forward to seeing this number climb.

Coming Up

- Surgical Quality Meeting: **June 7, 2019**
- Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer call: **July 8, 2019**, at 9 a.m.
- Upcoming Surgeon Champion calls: **June 25, 2019**, and **July 23, 2019**, at 7 a.m.
- ACS NSQIP Quality and Safety Conference: **July 19 to 22, 2019**

ON-SQIN Newsletter: **Summer 2019**

The summer edition of the ON-SQIN Newsletter will be released in the next quarter. Please email us at ONSQIN@hqontario.ca to share your hospital's work in this newsletter.

What's Happening in the Surgical QI Community?



Markham Stouffville Hospital's surgical quality improvement team, one of 31 teams who participated in the 2018/19 Committed to Better: Reducing Infections after Surgery campaign. (From left to right: Kim Adel, Maria Caruso, Jasmine Yeboah, Paul Lokoff, Tracie Scott, Jane Warner, Krystle Wright, Jolanta Rozen-Piotrowska, Paddy Whelan, Ann Lescisin, Lisa McLean).

ACS NSQIP Quality and Safety Conference

[Registration](#) is now open for the ACS NSQIP annual Quality and Safety Conference, which is taking place from July 19 to 22, 2019, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. The Surgical Network will be well represented with posters and presentations from its teams. Dr. Helene Flageole from McMaster Children's Hospital will be making a presentation entitled Battling the Clinical Gray Zone: Navigating Difficult Variables during a breakout session, while the Dr. Tim Jackson will be presenting the results of our recent Committed to Better: Reducing Infections after Surgery collaborative campaign. ON-SQIN members are reminded to attend the Canadian and Ontario NSQIP Collaborative lunches, which provide an excellent opportunity to connect with our national colleagues as well as those from closer to home.

Engaging Patients and Caregivers in QI Initiatives

Patients and caregivers are an important source of ideas for your hospital's quality improvement efforts. Involving patients and caregivers can empower them to be involved in their own care, improve communication between patients and health care providers, and can result in meaningful improvements to health care services. Consider engaging with patients to support your work on the Cut the Count campaign—talk with your hospital's Patient and Family Advisory Council to find out how patients can get involved; ask interested patients and family members about their pain management needs and concerns; share the [opioid prescribing for acute pain patient guide](#); and let patients know that your hospital is working on this campaign and why (use this [poster](#) in your patient areas). For additional information, review Health Quality Ontario's [guide](#) to engaging patients and caregivers in quality improvement initiatives.

Successful UTI Reduction at Grand River Hospital

The surgical quality improvement team at Grand River Hospital was recently featured in their hospital's [newsletter](#). The article highlighted how data they received from ACS NSQIP helped them lower rates of urinary tract infection after surgery (22% overall reduction from 2015 to 2018). "Due to urinary tract infections, patients would stay [in hospital] longer, and it was a complication that was preventable," said Robinne Hauck, Grand River Hospital's surgical program director. "We've developed guidelines based on best practice to remove a catheter or not use one in the first place. It's an example of why we're involved in ACS NSQIP... to change practice and improve patient outcomes."

To learn more about ON-SQIN and how you can get involved, please [visit our website](#) or contact ONSQIN@hqontario.ca.

Featured QI Initiatives



Dr. Ken Leslie, Chief, Division of General Surgery at London Health Sciences Centre and principal investigator in the STOP Narcotics study to help manage patients' pain effectively while decreasing opioid prescriptions after surgery, presenting at the 2018 Ontario Surgical Quality Conference.

London Health Sciences STOP Narcotics

Dr. Ken Leslie from London Health Sciences shared the results from his team's study at the 2018 Ontario Surgical Quality Conference, where he reinforced that after implementing a standardized pain care bundle—which includes provider education, patient education, intraoperative multimodal therapy, and postoperative multimodal analgesia—not only does opioid prescribing decrease, but patients' pain remains appropriately treated and they remain satisfied with their care. This great work is already being spread in the southwest region of Ontario. For teams interested in learning more about how to implement the [STOP Narcotics program](#), Dr. Leslie and his team have developed and shared an implementation checklist; it's now available on Quorum* to help support your quality improvement work for the Cut the Count campaign.

Niagara Health System Opioid Quality Improvement Study

In response to the growing number of opioid-related emergency department visits in the region, the team at Niagara Health System, led by Dr. Ekta Khemani, has started an expansive quality improvement initiative focusing on postoperative opioid prescriptions. To understand the prevalence of opioid overprescribing at their organization, the team conducted a prospective quality improvement study for elective, day-surgery patients and found that the number of opioids consumed after surgery was less than the number prescribed. In order to appropriately decrease the number of opioid pills prescribed at discharge so that unused pills are not misused by others, the team plans to implement an audit-and-feedback initiative through regional surgical grand rounds; standardize postoperative discharge prescriptions to include multimodal analgesia and narcotic disposal methods; and create opioid prescribing guidelines for 19 surgical procedures, based on the literature and baseline measurements from their study. The team will also track balancing measures, such as patient pain rating and patient experience. This initiative is aligned with ON-SQIN's upcoming Cut the Count campaign, and we look forward to learning more about the results of this quality improvement initiative.

*For tools and resources from ON-SQIN members, promotional materials for the Cut the Count: Reducing Opioids after Surgery campaign, and more information on partnering with patients, visit the opioid reduction campaign folder in the [surgical quality improvement page](#) on Quorum.

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