

Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

ISSUE 21
Summer 2021

45

Number of hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

31

Number of hospital sites that created a 2021/22 SQIP

34

Percent reduction in number of opioid pills prescribed at discharge (Apr 1/19 to Mar 31/21)

150+

Number of participants at the Ontario Surgical Quality Spring Meeting

55

Number of mentoring relationships established

232

Total number of ON-SQIN team members

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

2021 ACS Quality and Safety Conference - VIRTUAL
July 12 – 16, 2021 (Monday – Friday)



Eduardo Garcia, Keynote Speaker at 2021 ACS Quality and Safety Conference

Ontario Surgical Quality Spring Meeting

Over 150 clinicians, surgical clinical reviewers, and quality improvement (QI) and administrative hospital staff participated in the fifth annual Ontario Surgical Quality Spring Meeting (virtual) on June 11, 2021. A huge success, 95% of participants rated the meeting positively.

The meeting included a focus on how our current campaign, Enhancing Surgical Recovery, can help address the current surgical backlog. Dr. Chris Simpson, Executive Vice President, Medical at Ontario Health, noted the COVID-19 pandemic has given us "a *once-in-a-career, lifetime opportunity to help rebuild a safer and more integrated health care system.*" The role of the surgical network in supporting pandemic recovery for surgical care is essential, and teams are enthusiastic to continue applying new learnings within their hospitals.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Olle Ljungqvist, Professor of Surgery at the School of Medical Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden, shared his insights on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on surgical care—for example, reducing operating room time, redeploying operating room staff, and how implementing Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols can help address surgical backlog.

"[There is] evidence that we can drive change very rapidly in response to the pandemic. Rapid change was made possible by the people who work in the front-line clinical professions."

— Dr. Olle Ljungqvist

The event also showcased the work of ON-SQIN members in reducing opioid prescribing after surgery and in implementing remote care monitoring for surgical patients. Heather Hartley, Kristina Cruess, and Susan Stevens from Quinte Health Care shared how their successes with staff and patient education and standardizing prescribing protocols in four orthopedic surgeries resulted in the reduction of 28,447 pills from circulation.

Shahnoor Ullah and Aaron Jackson from Mackenzie Health also walked us through their general surgery opioid reduction journey. Their approach included implementing surgeon education and individual surgeon reporting, engaging nurse educators, and updating their EMR order sets. These changes resulted in a 30% reduction in the number of tablets prescribed at discharge.

ACS Quality and Safety Conference Highlights

The second virtual American College of Surgeons (ACS) Quality and Patient Safety Conference took place from July 12 to 16, 2021. In an inspirational keynote address, Chef Eduardo Garcia shared his health care journey—including how he came to terms with losing his hand. New features of the conference included "Surgical Clinical Reviewer Trivia" and "Stump the Expert." Conference themes included addressing surgical backlog and a renewed interest in ERAS. Congratulations to the Ontario teams whose abstracts were accepted (listed in [Quorum](#))!

What's Happening



Dr. Olle Ljungqvist, Professor of Surgery at the School of Medical Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden

July 2021 NSQIP-Ontario Semi-Annual Report

This report includes risk-adjusted data for surgeries that occurred between January and December 2020. While it was encouraging to see a reduction in urinary tract infection (UTI) rates across the Ontario collaborative, the report gives further impetus to address all post-operative infection rates.

Congratulations to the hospitals who rank in the top five lowest rates of post-operative UTI in the July 2021 semi-annual report (SAR): 1. Cambridge Memorial Hospital; 2. North Bay Regional Health Centre; 3. Hamilton Health Sciences (General Site); 4. Scarborough Health Network; and 5. Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Cut the Count Campaign Results

The results are in! We achieved a 34% reduction in post-surgical opioid prescribing, exceeding our goal of 30%. Despite the trials of the past year, ON-SQIN surgical QI teams did not slacken in their commitment to reduce postsurgical opioid prescribing. Since 2019, our members have put into action change ideas to reduce the number of opioids prescribed while adequately managing pain. Some of these changes included patient education, standard prescribing protocols, and multi-modal and non-pharmacological pain management. Congratulations, team!

Funding for Surgical Transitions Remote Care

Ontario Health is pleased to share new virtual care funding opportunities. The purpose of this funding is to support health system recovery by increasing access to key services, transforming how care is delivered, and building Ontario Health Team digital maturity. The Surgical Transitions Remote Care funding is intended to sustain and scale programs that provide patients with virtual pre- and post-operative clinical monitoring and related supports.

Ontario Health is inviting proposals for one-time funding for the following:

- Proposals to sustain and enhance existing surgical transitions remote care programs funded in FY 2020-21 with demonstrated implementation success
- Proposals to create new surgical remote care programs that meet the funding criteria

Please contact your Ontario Health Regional Digital Lead for more information and support with proposal development.

New Perioperative Pain Management Website

The [Perioperative Pain Management Pathway](#) by Ontario's Anesthesiologists is a living repository of evidence-based best practices that Canadian health care professionals can reference to help manage their patients' perioperative experiences with pain. The site is part of the [SolvingPain](#) initiative, which focuses on improving pain management while helping to fight the opioid epidemic.

Featured Initiatives



Southlake Regional Health Centre, Newmarket, Ontario

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery at Southlake Regional Health Centre

Implementing ERAS pre-habilitation protocols, and providing antimicrobial scrub wash to patients at the surgeon's office to use before they arrive for surgery, has resulted in reductions in surgical site infections for knee and hip replacements at the Southlake Regional Health Centre. A look at their NSQIP on-demand smoothed data reveals a 36% reduction in their average rate. Surgical Clinical Reviewer, Priyanka Khandelwal, attributes this success to the advocacy and reminders from senior members of their surgical QI team.

Surgical 411 Podcast

The ON-SQIN team is pleased to present the first edition of our new podcast, Surgical 411. In this inaugural episode posted to [Quorum](#), we interview Tricia Beath, Manager (Acting), Clinical Improvement at Ontario Health and Informatics, to find out how Ontario Health and the ON-SQIN program delivery team is assisting with COVID-19 pandemic recovery. Stay tuned for our second episode featuring an interview with Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Chief of Surgery, Dr. Duncan Rozario.

Have a story to share about surgery in Ontario? Contact ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca to submit an idea for a future podcast.

Coming Up

- Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings:** September 16, October 21, and November 18 at 12 p.m.
- Upcoming Surgeon Champion meetings:** September 28, October 26, and November 23 at 7 a.m.
- BC Prehabilitation Collaborative Results Webinar:** September 23 at 8 a.m.
- Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting (virtual):** November 5, 2021
- Release of the Fall ON-SQIN Update:** November 2021. Please email us at ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca to share your hospital's work in this update

To learn more about ON-SQIN and how you can get involved, please [visit our website](#) or contact ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca. Past issues of these updates can be found [here](#).



Ontario Health