

Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network Update

ISSUE 24
Summer 2022

Ontario
Surgical Quality
Improvement
Network

4 5

Hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

2 3

Hospital sites that created an initial 2022/23 SQIP

2 3

Hospital sites that completed their year-end 2021/2022 SQIP

7

ON-SQIN member abstracts accepted at the ACS Quality and Safety Conference

3 5

Participants at the inaugural ON-SQIN Planetary Health Working Group Meeting

3 6 7

Total number of ON-SQIN team members

ON-SQIN: Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

SQIP: Surgical Quality Improvement Plan

NSQIP: National Surgical Quality Improvement Program

NSQIP-ON: National Surgical Quality Improvement Program - Ontario

Highlights



Lois Chui, Patient Safety Specialist, McMaster Children's Hospital

ACS Quality and Safety Conference Highlights

The first in-person American College of Surgeons (ACS) Quality and Safety Conference since the pandemic took place July 15 to 18, 2022, in Chicago. Attendees were pleased with the many opportunities for networking and collaboration. Topics this year included social determinants of health, implementing Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS), and planetary (or sustainable) health, including a presentation on planetary health by **Dr. Husein Moloo** of the University of Ottawa and The Ottawa Hospital.

There was considerable representation from ON-SQIN among the accepted poster presentations, including abstracts from six member hospitals and the program delivery team:

- A Separate Abdominal Pediatric Closing Tray: Our Journey Towards Zero—McMaster Children's Hospital
- An Organizational Quality Improvement Approach to Reduce Surgical Site Infections—University Health Network
- Decreasing Length of Stay in Colorectal Surgeries Following ERAS Protocol—Niagara Health System
- Patient's Experience with Opioid Sparing Analgesia After Uncomplicated Appendectomy: A Pilot Study—Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- Sustainability of the Quality of Surgical Discharge Instructions in a Tertiary Pediatric Hospital—Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- Sustaining Opioid Reduction Performance in Pandemic for General Surgical Patients with Acute Pain—Grand River Hospital
- Enhancing Surgical Recovery Collaborative Campaign—ON-SQIN program delivery team

And congratulations to the ON-SQIN program delivery team for winning the "Best Collaborative Abstract" for the Enhancing Surgical Recovery Collaborative Campaign!

Coming Up

- **Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings:** Sept 15/22 and Oct 20/22 at 12 p.m.
- **Upcoming Surgeon Champion meetings:** Sept 27/22 and Oct 25/22 at 7 a.m.
- **Upcoming Canadian Pediatric Collaborative of NSQIP meeting:** Sept 2/22
- **Release of the next ON-SQIN Update:** Nov 2022

Please email us at ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca to share your hospital's work in the next 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](#).

What's Happening



Niagara Health System: Ted Nangle, Business Manager Perioperative, and Cristina Huffman, Surgical Quality Improvement Specialist

July 2022 NSQIP-ON Semi-Annual Report

This semi-annual report (SAR) includes risk-adjusted data for surgeries that occurred between January and December 2021. We are pleased to report that hospital colorectal surgical site infection (SSI), readmission, and return to operating room (ROR) rates in Ontario have decreased substantially over the past year. Opportunities for improvement for this year's ERAS campaign include all cases urinary tract infections, SSI, and venous thromboembolism (VTE), which saw slight increases. Congratulations to the top five hospitals with the lowest rates of post-operative colorectal length of stay in the July 2022 NSQIP-ON SAR: 1. Grey Bruce Health Services; 2. Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; 3. London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Hospital; 4. Lakeridge Health; and 5. Hôpital Montfort Hospital. Top five hospital rankings for other key indicators will be shared in upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer and Surgeon Champion meetings.

EQUIP Health Care Action Kit

EQUIP Health Care is a research and implementation program that involves health equity interventions implemented in a range of health care settings, including in surgery. The interventions are designed to enhance organizational capacity, and to provide equity-oriented health care—particularly for those who experience significant health and social inequities. On June 29, EQUIP Health Care showcased their EQUIP Emergency Initiative, a 5-year project looking at promoting health equity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canadian Emergency Departments. At the showcase, EQUIP Health Care presented the **Equity Action Kit** developed in collaboration with the EQUIP Pathways Project. The action kit includes strategies and resources for reducing stigma related to substance use and implementing equity-oriented, culturally safe, and trauma- and violence-informed care.

Contributor Shout-Out

We are thrilled to acknowledge our colleague, **Leanne Muszynski**, Surgical Clinical Reviewer at London Health Sciences, for the many ways she contributes to ON-SQIN, including regular attendance at our monthly SCR meetings and taking on the role of "guest host." Leanne has offered excellent suggestions for improving the Surgical Quality Improvement Plan Navigator system reports and is always available to answer our data-related questions. Thanks, Leanne!

Enhancing Surgical Recovery Campaign

Back by popular demand, an infographic package has recently been released, detailing the results of last year's ERAS campaign and how teams are moving forward with the Campaign in 2022/23. The infographic package also contains a directory of all ON-SQIN teams participating in the campaign, their areas of focus and change ideas, and a contact list to facilitate sharing and learning within ON-SQIN. If you did not receive a copy of this package, please contact us at ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca.

Featured Initiatives



Dr. Husein Moloo, Director Planetary Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa; Department of Surgery, The Ottawa Hospital

Niagara Health: Reducing Length of Stay After Colorectal Surgery

Bed availability is an ongoing concern for most hospitals. In 2021, despite the unprecedented impact of COVID-19, the Niagara Health Perioperative Program committed to implementing a length of stay (LOS) reduction initiative for colorectal surgery patients. The goal was to alleviate bed occupancy pressures through LOS reduction strategies, while also improving patient outcomes. The pathway was developed using a framework obtained from **Enhanced Recovery Canada**, which uses evidence-based practices that have been shown to improve patient quality outcomes, improve patient experience, reduce LOS, decrease complication rates, and decrease hospital readmissions. The program was developed in collaboration with Ontario Health using NSQIP-ON data collected at Niagara Health.

The Niagara Health ERAS team implemented the following strategies: evidenced-based practice care pathway, gap analysis, educational materials and online resources for patients, formation of an oversight committee, and staff education. Within 4 months of implementation, LOS decreased from 8.9 days to 4.1 days (a 54% reduction), exceeding their initial target LOS of 6 days, with minimal impact on readmission rates (5.5% vs. 5.26% prior to ERAS implementation). Our team is committed to working toward the same goal, which is the sustainability of providing patients quality outcomes and experience.

The Niagara Health ERAS team would like to thank **Dr. Hanumanthaiah, Charlene Duliban, Gloria Jansz, and Heather Penney** for such an amazing job in committing to make this project a successful one.

Planetary Health Care

Planetary, or environmentally sustainable, health care has become a priority focus for many clinicians, and Ontario hospitals have been eager to get involved. Led by **Dr. David Smith**, North York General Hospital surgeon and ON-SQIN Steering Committee member, the ON-SQIN Planetary Health Care Working Group has met twice to discuss current and future initiatives that are feasible and contribute to sustainable health care, including "bring-your-own-bag" initiative for patient belongings, energy waste reduction projects, and programs to reduce the use of desflurane gas during anesthesia. Next steps include a one-day **CASCADES** workshop, focusing on reducing the carbon footprint in the operating room. To get involved, please contact ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca.

"It's exciting to be looking at something that I think would make a difference—not just for the environment, but for the patients."

—Tom Short, Program Chief and Medical Director for the Surgical Program at Trillium Health Partners