ONLINE SURGICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT NETWORK UPDATE

What's Happening in the Surgical QI Community?

- Special thanks to Surgical Clinical Reviewers (SCRs) Sujaitha Liyanage from William Osler Health Centre and Alvina Tse from the University Health Network for bringing their expertise on collecting data and reporting on NSQIP ERAS variables to the April SCR call; and to Lisa MacDuff and Hannah Brooks for sharing their expertise on process measures and leading QI projects on the May SCR call.

- A summary report on the 2017/18 Surgical Quality Improvement Plans has been shared with NSQIP-ON members. This year, adult and pediatric sites are focusing on reducing surgical site infection (SSI), urinary tract infection (UTI), length of stay, and readmissions in a variety of surgical specialties. The 6-month progress report is due on July 31, 2017.

- On May 26th more than 70 members of NSQIP-ON attended an in-person meeting in Toronto:
  - Keynote speaker Dr. Doug Cochrane shared lessons learned by British Columbia's Surgical Quality Action Network's "10,000 reasons to race for infection prevention" campaign—sage advice, as plans for a campaign to reduce rates of post-operative infections are underway in Ontario.
  - Nine teams shared "what we are most proud of" in surgical quality improvement. Thank you to speakers from Halton Healthcare, Niagara Health System, North Bay Regional Health Centre, North York General Hospital, The Ottawa Hospital, Queensway Carleton Hospital, University Health Network, and William Osler Health Centre who have worked hard to reduce rates of SSI, UTI, pneumonia, and emergency department visits for their surgical patients.
  - Thank you to IDEAS Advisors Shawna Cunningham and Alice Strachan for providing an introduction to QI theory and tools.

- The surgical teams from London Health Sciences Centre, Health Sciences North, North York General Hospital, Sick Kids, The Ottawa Hospital, Queensway Carleton Hospital, and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre will be sharing their great work at the ACS Quality and Safety Conference in New York in July.

Featured Hospital QI Initiatives

Grand River Hospital

The interprofessional surgical quality improvement team at Grand River Hospital, Kitchener Waterloo campus, has been using their NSQIP® data to inform the implementation of ERAS on their surgical units. They are beginning to collect process measures related to the implementation of a post-operative care pathway and have developed a patient activity checklist.

The team has also been working to reduce their rates of SSI by involving the Infection Prevention and Control team, whose efforts to reduce SSI in the orthopedic hip and knee and the caesarian section populations have had a broader effect on hospital best practices in SSI prevention—including in general surgery!

Surgeon Champion Dr. Torres notes that the overall QI culture at Grand River is pervasive and she is impressed with the accomplishments to date.

North York General Hospital (NYGH)

Launching the first round of QI work included on the hospital's SQIP; Dr. Smith, Surgeon Champion, and Hannah Brooks, Surgical Clinical Reviewer, met with NYGH's gynecology surgeons to review their NSQIP data. The team saw that there was an opportunity for improvement in UTI rates and decided to implement Choosing Wisely recommendations on the use of urinary catheters. They created a standardized list of gynecology surgeries requiring and not requiring the insertion of a urinary catheter and adopted an algorithm to ensure that urinary retention was monitored in post-operative gynecology patients.

All clinicians from the operating rooms and surgical units at NYGH are expected to complete learning modules on sterile technique for urinary catheter insertion. Hospital porters and members of the interprofessional team also received education on catheter bag placement during patient mobilization.

The gynecology team launched this work in January 2017 and have since seen a significant improvement in their data. This great work is being expanded to other surgical teams.

To learn more about ON-SQIN and how you can get involved, please visit our website or contact NSQIP@hqontario.ca. Past issues of this newsletter can be found here.