**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Surgical Quality Improvement Plans (SQIPs) are going digital in 2018. Seven members of the Surgical Network participated in a focused group led by the Provincial Platforms team at Health Quality Ontario and will be actively engaged as we develop the online platform for your SQIPs.

- We would like to welcome Dr. Clouthier to the Surgical Network. Dr. Clouthier is the new NSQIP Surgeon Champion at Peterborough Regional Health Centre.

- Asked on Quorum: how do you explain expected surgical wait times to your patients and what other factors do you bring into the discussion? Join the conversation and share your experiences!

- Want to find out how members of the Surgical Network are reducing rates of surgical site infections, engaging patients as advisors, and leveraging best practices? Read the impact report, Improving Surgical Care in Ontario.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SEPTMBER 11 AND OCTOBER 16, FROM 9–10 A.M.**

The next scheduled Surgical Clinical Reviewer monthly calls

**AUGUST 22, SEPTEMBER 26, AND OCTOBER 24 FROM 7–8 A.M.**

The next scheduled Surgeon Champion monthly calls

**OCTOBER 23, 2017**

The Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Forum 2017 will take place in Toronto. Keynote speaker J. Bryan Sexton from the Duke University Patient Safety Center at Duke University Health System will address "Thriving vs. surviving during times of change: The science of enhancing resilience."

**OCTOBER 24, 2017**

Save the date for the Health Quality Transformation in Toronto, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Don Berwick. Dr. Berwick is an inspirational speaker and a leading authority on health care quality and improvement. Read his full biography here.

**NOVEMBER 10, 2017**

The 2017 Ontario Surgical Quality Conference will be taking place in Toronto featuring keynote speaker Dr. E. Patchen Dellingr from the University of Washington Medical Center. Registration opens at the end of August.

**FALL 2017**

Release of the next ON-SQIN Newsletter. Please email us at ON-SQIN@ontario.ca to share your hospital’s work in this newsletter.

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**What’s Happening in the Surgical QI Community?**

- Ontario was strongly represented at the ACS Quality and Safety Conference in New York City in July, with members from more than 14 NSQIP-ON organizations in attendance. Congratulations to the teams from Hamilton Health Sciences Centre, North York General Hospital, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Sick Kids, and the University Health Network, all of whom shared their great work in surgical quality improvement through podium and poster presentations! Because of the strong showing from the collaborative at this event, others from across the globe are interested in learning more about Ontario’s surgical Community of Practice.

- June’s Surgeon Champion call featured Dr. Calghoun’s work to implement and spread NSQIP at London Health Sciences Centre and Dr. Lisi and his team’s efforts to galvanize supports for surgical QI projects at Collingwood General and Marine Hospital.

- Special thanks to Lisa MacDuff from Bay Regional Health Centre who has created a spreadsheet to collate NSQIP custom fields and made it available for sharing with all Surgical Network Members. It is posted to the Ontario Surgical Network group on Quorum – you can share your custom fields with others here!

- Thanks to Surgical Clinical Reviewers Tina Car, Steve Blakely, and Angele Poulin for sharing “what we are most proud of” on our monthly calls. Tina highlighted Markham Stouffville Hospital’s strong interprofessional team and leadership engagement in surgical QI, while Steve and Angele spoke to Health Sciences North’s implementation of NSQIP and the successes they’ve had using data for improvement in the area of surgical site infection reduction.

- The Ontario collaborative of NSQIP is preparing for the November launch of a collaborative-wide effort to reduce post-surgical infections. The team at Health Quality Ontario is excited to be supporting this great initiative.

**Interested in Building QI Capacity In Your Surgical QI Teams?**

- Click on the following links for more information on IDEAS and ERAS*

**Featured Hospital QI Initiatives**

**St. Michael’s Hospital**

The use of clinical data for QI is strongly embedded in the culture at St. Michael’s Hospital. As long-time participants in the American College of Surgeons Trauma Quality Improvement Program (ACS TQIP), the implementation of ACS NSQIP was welcomed by the surgical teams. The data are shared broadly across the hospital, and surgical QI efforts are embedded at the divisional, departmental, and programmatic levels; this alignment with organizational improvement is important to foster engagement at the front lines of care.

The surgical QI team at St. Michael’s attributes their exemplary performance in surgical site infection (SSI) prevention to shared participation in an SSI Working Group with the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team. Using common language and a shared understanding of the data, the group achieved low rates of SSI at the hospital by ensuring that their SSI improvement strategy was in line with IPAC SSI audits, definitions, and reporting structures. Strong medical leadership and organizational engagement were important contributing factors to their success.

**McMaster Children’s Hospital**

McMaster Children’s Hospital (MCH) has created a 22-member interprofessional QI team, which includes patient and family volunteers, and has joined “Children’s Hospitals’ Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS), a US-based pediatric collaborative whose mission is “Working together to eliminate serious harm across all children’s hospitals.” As one of its QI initiatives, the team reviewed current practices on surgical site infection (SSI) prevention against recommendations in the SPS SSI bundle, and decided to focus their efforts on three areas: pre-operative bathing, appropriate antibiotic timing, and skin antisepsis and dressings. They have also revised their pre-operative educational handout “Getting Ready for Surgery” to focus on clean skin and infections, with clear directions for families. They use their NSQIP and SPS data to monitor the quality of pediatric surgical care and track progress via an interactive dashboard.

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