Highlights

- 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 surgeons in Ontario take place in an ON-SQIN hospital.
- The Out 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 Fairlough, 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.

What’s Happening in the Surgical QI Community?

- 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 Flageolot from McMaster Children’s Hospital will be making a presentation entitled Battling the Clinical Gray Zone: Navigating Difficult Variables during a Breakout session, while Dr. Tim Jackson will be presenting the results of our recent Commit 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 you 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.

Featured QI Initiatives

- Surgical Quality Meeting: June 7, 2019
- Upcoming Surgical Critical 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.

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