

# Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

ISSUE 15  
Summer 2019

46

Number of hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

42

Number of hospital sites that created a 2019/20 SQIP

151

Number of surgical group members on Quorum

45

Number of teams participating in the Cut the Count campaign

335

Total number of ON-SQIN members

96

Number of orthopedic surgeons who registered for a MyPractice report

45

Number of mentoring relationships that have been formed through ON-SQIN

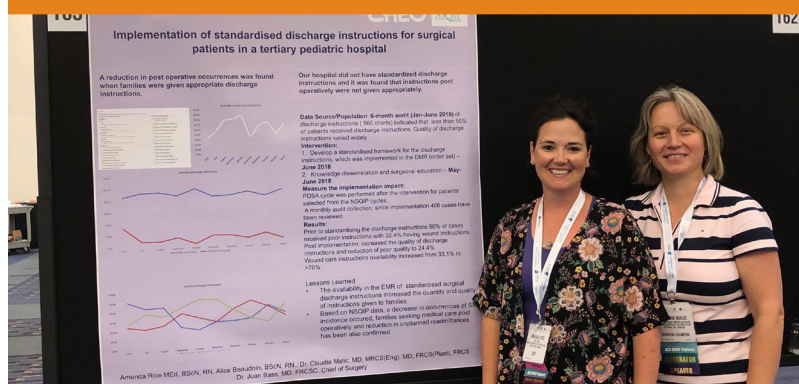
NSQIP-ON: National Surgical Quality Improvement Program - Ontario

SQIP: Surgical Quality Improvement Plan

ON-SQIN: Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

NSQIP: National Surgical Quality Improvement Program

## Highlights



Amanda Rice, Surgical Clinical Reviewer (left), and Dr. Claudia Malic, Surgeon Champion, from Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario presenting their poster at the ACS Conference in Washington, DC.

• Since the launch of ON-SQIN in 2015, member hospitals across the province have implemented evidence-based quality improvement change ideas, and we are seeing the positive results! The Ontario collaborative's semi-annual report, released in July, showed marked improvement in many areas, including a decrease in rates of readmission—4.30% in 2015 to 3.38% in 2019, which is below the NSQIP average. This represents 1,160 adults who avoided a hospital readmission. (Data based on numbers found in: Your Health System Insight. Discharge Abstract Database 2009/10-2016-17. Canadian Institute for Health Information.) For additional data, you can download the report from the ACS NSQIP portal.

• Trillium Health Partners—Mississauga Hospital has joined ON-SQIN. Welcome!

• Read about how [North York General Hospital](#) and [London Health Sciences Centre](#) are leading the way to reduce the number of opioids they prescribe patients after surgery.

• The 2019 ACS Quality and Safety Conference took place July 19–23 in Washington, DC. Ontario hospitals were well represented, with more than 40 team members attending. Congratulations to the following ON-SQIN members who presented at the conference:

- Helene Flageole and Judy D'Illario, McMaster Children's Hospital
- Timothy Jackson and Natalia Lavrencic, Toronto Western Hospital
- David Smith and Hannah Brooks, North York General Hospital
- Michael Lisi, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital
- Amanda Rice and Claudia Malic, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

Special thanks to our on-site correspondents: Grace Bannerman, SCR, University Health Network and Michael Dorwood, SCR, London Health Sciences Centre.

## Coming Up

• Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer call: **September 9 2019**, at 9 a.m.

• Upcoming Surgeon Champion calls: **August 27** and **September 24, 2019**, at 7 a.m.

• Orthopaedic surgeons: [sign up](#) by September 10, 2019, to receive your confidential MyPractice Orthopaedic Surgery report.

ON-SQIN Newsletter: Fall 2019

The fall edition of the ON-SQIN Newsletter will be released in the next quarter. Please email us at [NSQIP@hqontario.ca](mailto:NSQIP@hqontario.ca) to share your hospital's work in this newsletter.

## What's Happening in the Surgical QI Community?



Tim Jackson, Provincial Surgeon Lead, celebrating the success of the infection reduction campaign at the Ontario surgical meeting on June 7.

On June 7, 2019, surgical teams from across Ontario gathered to celebrate the success of our infection reduction campaign and kick off the Cut the Count opioid campaign. Some highlights:

• Dr. Jonah Stulberg of the Illinois Surgical Quality Improvement Collaborative (ISQIC) gave the keynote address, "Minimizing Opioid Prescribing in Surgery." He encouraged participants to think and talk about optimizing use of multimodal strategies to help patients participate in their recovery, and shared ISQIC's very useful [opioid stewardship toolkit](#).

• Dr. Melanie Toman, Dr. Mathew Silvaggio, and Savannah Prete from the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre shared their innovative, multidisciplinary, acute pain service program. It offers a broad range of multimodal pain management options, including optimal use of peripheral nerve blocks. With the help of pre-admission clinic staff, the team is able to put their patients' individual pain management needs at the centre.

• Dr. Michael Lisi, Collingwood General and Marine Hospital, spoke about spreading quality improvement initiatives to every care team in the hospital and integrating their SQIP with the hospital's Quality Improvement Plan to ensure support from leadership and alignment with hospital strategies.

• Lisa Bitonti-Bengert and Joanna deGraaf-Dunlop from Health Quality Ontario and Dr. Duncan Rozario from Halton Healthcare led the session on change management and clinical engagement. The key takeaway from their presentation was to keep it simple when introducing change. Use one handout, one pre-printed prescription—make the change easy.

• Dr. Annie Fecteau from the Hospital for Sick Children spoke about culture change within their multidisciplinary operating room teams after reviewing their NSQIP data and identifying issues they wanted to address. Deciding to focus on SSI, they formed a team to implement best practice change ideas, such as the use of closing trays. Change—and the resulting positive outcomes—was made possible by strong nursing leadership and the engagement of surgical residents and fellows.

• Dr. Praby Singh from the Scarborough Health Network shared how the surgical team began their improvement journey to reduce postsurgical UTIs with a two-day "rapid improvement event," where they identified short-term goals (e.g., adding catheter status to their daily debrief), medium-term goals (e.g., updating order sets), and long-term goals (e.g., culture change). This has resulted in a UTI rate that is below the NSQIP average.

## Featured QI Initiatives



Surgical team at North York General Hospital. From left: Anesthesiologist Dr. Aaron Mocon, Anesthesiologist Dr. Brian Yau, Anesthesiologist Dr. Sanjho Srikandarajah, Pharmacist Jenny Chiu, Anesthesiologist Dr. Brian Kashin, and Surgeon Dr. David Smith. Photo credit: Nadia Daniell-Colarossi, Senior Communications Specialist.

### Engaging Patients and Caregivers in QI

In the last issue we drew attention to the [opioid prescribing for acute pain patient guide](#). Here, Dr. David Smith, Surgeon Champion at North York General Hospital, shares his approach to patient engagement to help with postsurgical pain management efforts:

"Patient engagement is about helping patients be their own advocates for the best care. North York General Hospital, along with ISMP, created a postsurgical opioid pamphlet to educate patients on pain management, including proper use of opioids and safe disposal. They also developed a postsurgical questionnaire as a way for patients to have a voice and share their experiences.\* The survey tracks the following:

1. How many pills the patient consumed to adequately manage their pain compared with what they were prescribed
2. What was done with the surplus pills
3. Whether they received the ISMP opioid education pamphlet

By using both the education pamphlet and the survey, we can encourage patients to ask questions before, during, and after surgery. Patients may see commercials about the [opioid] crisis or read the news articles, but because of the trust they place in their surgeons they don't always ask questions about the prescription they're given. Our goal is to empower and engage patients."

\*Resources can be found on the [surgical quality improvement page](#) on Quorum.

### Opioid stewardship highlighted at the ACS Quality and Safety Conference

• Dr. Zara Cooper from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston shared the importance of setting expectations for pain before surgery and having ongoing conversations about patients' goals around pain. Simply asking "Why do you think you're in pain?" can be helpful, as nausea, fatigue, emotional distress, etc., are sometimes expressed as symptoms of pain.

• The Michigan collaborative of ACS NSQIP gave a presentation on their Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network (OPEN), through which they have reduced the overall average number of pills prescribed after gallbladder surgery from 50 to 15. More information about OPEN is available [here](#).

To learn more about ON-SQIN and how you can get involved, please [visit our website](#) or contact [NSQIP@hqontario.ca](mailto:NSQIP@hqontario.ca).

Health Quality Ontario

Let's make our health system healthier

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