A recent story in the University Health Network’s (UHN’s) Newsroom spoke to the value of data as a driver for change and highlighted the organization’s involvement with ACS NSQIP as an example of measuring performance and setting benchmarks. The article pointed to many of UHN’s successes with the program, including reducing their rate of emergency department return visits by roughly 20% in 2016 after implementing small but effective postsurgical processes (e.g., improving discharge education for patients and staff). Read the full article here.

New surgical quality improvement teams are joining ON-SQIN! Interest in surgical quality improvement is growing—Health Quality Ontario is working with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to expand ACS NSQIP and the Surgical Network in Ontario. Details on the program’s expansion will be shared in the coming months.

The “Committed to Better: Reducing Infections after Surgery” campaign has been launched, with a goal of improving patient care by reducing infections after surgery, specifically SSI, UTI, and pneumonia. Teams across the province will accelerate meaningful improvements in these three areas and lead the implementation and spread of best practices related to infection prevention. The goal of the campaign is to work together as a provincial collaborative to reduce infections by 20%, and teams are encouraged to share their resources and lessons learned on Quorum.

The new Surgical Quality improvement tool (SQIP) Navigator tool has launched this month, simplifying and standardizing the SQIP creation process.

Health Quality Ontario is pleased to announce the launch of a new online tool to automate the submission of Surgical Quality Improvement Plans (SQIPs). A webinar took place on February 12, introducing ON-SQIN members to the new SQIP Navigator, which will simplify and standardize the SQIP creation process and ensure all teams are reporting on the same data at the same time for the same period. This tool will also provide a more accurate picture of the impact of members’ surgical QI work across the province. A reminder that the 2018/19 SQIPs are due on April 1.

Mary Yanchuk, Quality Manager at Health Sciences North, and her surgical quality improvement team have been helping a new SCR at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre accelerate her orientation by meeting with her weekly, answering questions, and lending support. Leveraging the power of the collaborative is especially important, which is why NSQIP-ON has started a mentorship program for SCRs as they start in this complex role. Mentorship can be a very rewarding experience for both the mentor and mentee. To date, 18 formal mentoring relationships have been developed as part of the program and several more informal connections have been made. To learn more about the ON-SQIN mentoring program email NSQIP@HQOntario.ca.

Congratulations to London Health Sciences – University Hospital for joining the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Safety Program for Improving Surgical Care and Recovery (ISCR).

The American College of Surgeons issued a call for abstracts for the 2018 Quality and Safety Conference, which is taking place July 21–24, at the Hyatt Regency Orlando in Florida. Has your surgical quality improvement team submitted an abstract? Email us at NSQIP@hqontario.ca and share your team’s submission.

Peterborough Regional Health Centre

At the Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC), surgical quality improvement meetings are held monthly and each team member is prepared to provide updates on their quality improvement initiatives pursuant to their goal of reducing postsurgical infections. At the January meeting, progress was shared on the implementation of best practices related to normothermia, antibiotic redosing, and use of separate closing trays, and the results of an operating room audit were summarized. Staff education on these topics have facilitated the uptake of these best practices, particularly the use of warming blankets to promote normothermia, which has garnered positive patient feedback. The PRHC interprofessional team was one of 66 hospitals recognized by the ACS for “Merritorious Outcomes” in surgical patient care in 2016. Patrick Van Rooyan, Data Quality Specialist (shown above), was named Most Valuable Player at the 2017 Ontario Surgical Quality Conference for his many contributions to the Surgical Network and his leadership at PRHC.

Leveraging Features of the NSQIP Workstation

At noticing an unexpected case outcome, Tina Carr from Markham Stouffville Hospital uses the “Case Occurrence Report” to better understand the anticipated risk of postoperative occurrences.

Mary Yanchuk, Quality Manager of the surgical program at Health Sciences North, and her team are using the ACS NSQIP Surgical Risk Calculator as part of a hospital-wide review of mortalities.

The team at Hamilton Health Sciences has developed custom fields to review compliance with the Safer Healthcare Now! SSI bundle. Millie Walker, SCR at Hamilton Health Sciences, notes that this process simplifies audit and feedback and helps promote adherence to this evidence-based practice.