New Collaborative Campaign: Reduce the Number of Opioids Prescribed

The next collaborative campaign on reducing opioids after surgery will be launched on April 1, 2019. The goal? To reduce the number of opioid pills prescribed at discharge by 30%. Teams will receive campaign packages, which will include evidence-based change ideas to support effective pain management and opioid prescribing after surgery; suggested outcomes; process and balancing measures; a communications toolkit; and more. Teams will be asked to commit to the campaign and set their goals via their Surgical Quality Improvement Plans (SQIPs). As you create your upcoming SQIPs, be sure to share your participation in the campaign with your hospital and collaborate with teams from other hospitals to achieve the best possible outcomes. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

Patient Experience Measures to Improve Surgical Quality of Care

Dr. Duncan Rozario, Surgeon Champion at Halton Healthcare and active member of the Surgical Network, has been published in the February issue of the Canadian Journal of Surgery. His article, “How well do we address what a good patient experience is and why it is so important. Dr. Rozario outlines the simple, inexpensive survey collection strategies his team employed to assess every single patient encounter in every single division, including surgical outpatient care, ambulatory care, and the inpatient units, every single day—and how Halton Healthcare strives to act on the results and create meaningful change. The full paper is available to read in the ON-SQIN Community of Practice page on Quorum.

Reducing Postsurgical Opioid Use at NYGH

The surgical QI team at North York General Hospital surveyed a cohort of patients undergoing laparoscopic appendectomy or laparoscopic cholecystectomy to determine the amount of opioids (i.e., number of pills) used following discharge compared with the amount prescribed. Data analysis revealed that only 17% of the prescribed opioids had been consumed. Using these data, the team decided to create and implement a standardized evidence-based prescription and patient education pamphlet, which decreased the number of opioids prescribed by 1000 pills over a 3-month period. North York General Hospital has graciously agreed to share this resource with other Surgical Network teams for the upcoming opioid reduction campaign.