The February ACS NSQIP Ontario semi-annual report confirmed the results of the Committed To Better: Reducing Infection After Surgery campaign, which ran from April 2018 to March 2019. Together, hospitals decreased observed rates of SSI by 21%, UTI rates by 31%, and pneumonia rates by 11%. This represents approximately 16,000 patients who avoided one or more infections.

The quarterly NSQIP Canada call took place on December 5, 2020, and included participants from surgical quality improvement teams across the country, including many representatives from ON-SQIN. The Nova Scotia NSQIP Collaborative shared some of their quality initiatives including a wound classification cheat sheet that has been posted to our Community of Practice on Quorum.

Building on the success of their 2018/19 SQIP results, the team at London Health Sciences Centre – University Hospital is expanding their UTI reduction strategies from general surgery to all surgical services. Change ideas include fewer catheter insertions within the operating room, adherence to a closed catheter system, and a two-person catheter insertion protocol (also referred to as a “buddy system”) to ensure sterile technique is achieved.

Dr. Ward, Surgeon Champion at St. Michael’s Hospital, partnered with a pharmacist to present discharge pain management strategies at their sister site, St. Joseph’s Health Centre. Collaboration between these hospitals and their teams, including pharmacists, is resulting in improved opioid prescribing and pain management at discharge.

North Bay Regional Health Centre’s (NBHRC) success with SSI reduction during the 2018/19 collaborative campaign was highlighted at their sister site, St. Joseph’s Health Centre. Collaboration between these hospitals and their teams, including pharmacists, is resulting in improved opioid prescribing and pain management at discharge.

As we come to the end of the first year of the Count the Count campaign, ON-SQIN surgical teams continue to work to reduce opioids after surgery, with a focus on patient and caregiver education:

- ISMP’s opioid stewardship project provides many useful online resources for patients and providers. An “Opioids after Surgery” handout, available under the member resources tab on Quorum, was co-created with North York General Hospital, while in the second issue of their monthly bulletin (August 2020), ISMP discusses how to engage in conversation with patients about the safe storage of medications in the home and the safe disposal of unnecessary or expired medications.

The Health Products Stewardship Association, in association with various local pharmacies, offers information for patients on where and how to return unused medications.

- A quality standard that addresses care for people of all ages transitioning between hospital and home after a hospital admission is now posted online. The quality statements describe what high-quality care looks like in key areas as people move from acute care settings to home and community care settings. A guide for providers is also available.

- Ontario Health (Quality business unit) is developing a new opioid stewardship standard for surgical site infections (SSIs). This quality standard will focus on the prevention, assessment, and management of SSIs for people of all ages who have a surgical procedure involving an incision through the skin. There will be opportunities to participate in the development of this quality standard; email ONHNSQIN@hqontario.ca to learn more.

- MyPractice Report: General Surgery, a confidential, voluntary report that includes personalized data on postoperative opioid prescribing for select procedures in general surgery, will be available this spring. For more information and to register for the report, visit the Ontario Health (Quality) MyPractice Report web page for updates. Registration deadline is March 31, 2020.

**Coming Up**

- Upcoming NSQIP Canada quarterly call: March 5 at 12 p.m.

- Upcoming Surgeon Champion call: March 24 and April 28 at 7 a.m.

- Upcoming Surgical Critical Reviewer call: May 11 at 9 a.m.

- ON-SQIN webinar on SQIP Navigator and the Cut the Count campaign: March 9 at 9 a.m.

- May 2020—release of the next ON-SQIN Newsletter. Please email us at ONHNSQIN@hqontario.ca to share your hospital’s work in this newsletter.

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