

# Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

ISSUE 17  
Winter 2020

46

Number of hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

180

Number of surgical group members on Quorum

46

Number of sites that submitted a 2019/20 SQIP mid-year report

09

Average number of opioid pills reduced per prescription since April 1

37

Average number of participants on the past six SCR webinars

335

Total number of ON-SQIN members

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 McFarlan (Unity Health Toronto), Cheryl Dunkerton (St. Michael's Hospital SCR), Dr. Melanie Tsang (St. Joseph's Health Centre SC), Monica Chow (St. Joseph's Health Centre SCR), Dr. Sarah Ward (St. Michael's Hospital SC).

• 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 (NBRHC's) success with SSI reduction during the 2018/19 collaborative campaign was highlighted in a [recent article](#) posted on the CTV Northern Ontario news website. “We have achieved great success for our surgical patients at NBRHC,” said Surgeon Champion Dr. Amber Menezes, “including decreased rates of peri-operative pneumonia, cardiac complications, and renal failure.”

## Coming Up

- Upcoming NSQIP Canada quarterly call: March 5 at 12 p.m.
- Upcoming Surgeon Champion calls: March 24 and April 28 at 7 a.m.
- Upcoming Surgical Clinical 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 [ONSQIN@hqontario.ca](mailto:ONSQIN@hqontario.ca) to share your hospital's work in this newsletter.

## What's Happening



Dr. Amber Menezes, Surgeon Champion, North Bay Regional Health Services (photo credit: NBRHC, reprinted with permission).

• As we come to the end of the first year of the Cut 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 [2018 issue](#) of their monthly bulletin ([subscribe here](#)), 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 patients](#) is also available.

• Ontario Health (Quality business unit) is developing a new quality 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 [ONSQIN@hqontario.ca](mailto:ONSQIN@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.

To learn more about ON-SQIN and how you can get involved, please [visit our website](#) or contact [ONSQIN@hqontario.ca](mailto:ONSQIN@hqontario.ca). Past issues of this newsletter can be found [here](#).

## Featured Initiatives



Members of the London Health Sciences Centre surgical team: Alison Armstrong (NSQIP coordinator), Rachel Cooper (HIM SCR), Joanna Gaebel (RN SCR, retired), Dr. Patrick Colquhoun (Surgical Quality Officer), Celia Dann (OI Facilitator/RN SCR), Michael Dorward (HIM SCR Paediatric), Helat Mahmood (HIM).

### Michael Garron Hospital's Opioid Reduction Task Force Achieves Success

In the last [issue](#), we shared how Michael Garron Hospital had developed a multidisciplinary opioid reduction taskforce. Its first order of business was to pilot an electronic multimodal pain medication discharge prescription that can be tailored to the needs of individual patients and specific health histories.

This quarter, the team reports that the pilot project has been a success. They have reduced their opioid prescribing after orthopedic surgery by 37%, exceeding the provincial target of 30%. The team intends to spread this success by adapting and applying their [change ideas](#)—providing supplementary information about the benefits and potential harms of opioids using discharge information packages and incorporating multimodal analgesia, including ice packs where appropriate, at specific times and frequencies—to other surgical specialties within the hospital. They also plan to further engage with community members and partners to address the system-wide issue of safe disposal of unused opioid tablets

### McMaster Children's Hospital Takes On Opioid Prescribing and Pain Management

McMaster Children's Hospital (MCH) is addressing the way [opioids are managed in pediatric care](#), where there are often a number of unused pills after surgery. Teens and young adults are most at risk of misusing opioids pills after surgery, so the team is focusing on educating families around pain management, opioid safety, and safe disposal of unused medication. They offer a patient education pamphlet at discharge on managing patients' postsurgical pain, and follow up by phone to ensure families received this education pamphlet before they left. They also set a goal to reduce the number of pills prescribed by 20% by March 2020 while providing good pain management. “We are seeing numbers trending in the right direction,” says Barb Jennings, a patient safety advisor at the hospital. A copy of MCH's patient education pamphlet, which includes common side effects of opioid use, is available [here](#).



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