Reflections on the November 2020 Ontario Surgical Quality Virtual Meeting

There is no doubt this has been a challenging year for all hospitals and surgical programs. Surgical slowdowns and the uncertainty around COVID-19 have further increased backlogs (OMUJ). However, at the Ontario Surgical Quality Virtual Meeting on November 13, 2020, our network focused on success stories and the silver linings that can come from this pandemic. Dr. Amanda Williamson (Pembroke Regional Hospital), Yousa Hassan (University Health Network), and Katherine Krupa (Cambridge Memorial Hospital) shared their inspiring success stories for reducing opioids after surgery. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Wick (University of California San Francisco), discussed their organization’s pathway called Improving Surgical Care and Recovery. Drs. Jon Irish (Provincial Clinical Lead at Ontario Health), Tom Waddell (University Health Network), and David Schramm (Ottawa Hospital) discussed surgical smoothing, including reassessing the efficiency of their operating rooms. And Dr. David Smith (North York General Hospital) highlighted his lessons learned and successes from their operating rooms. While Dr. Amanda Williamson (Pembroke Regional Hospital) shared their inspiring success stories for reducing opioids after surgery. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Wick (University of California San Francisco), discussed their organization’s pathway called Improving Surgical Care and Recovery.

I fully believe some of these changes will help improve patient access and satisfaction in the long-term. I look forward to working together to realize continued improvements in the coming year. Thank you to the speakers and attendees for your participation in this inspiring meeting!

—Dr. Tim Jackson, ON-SQIN Provincial Surgeon Lead

Cut the Count: Reducing Opioids After Surgery

From April 2019 to April 2020, ON-SQIN teams participated in the second collaborative campaign, Cut the Count: Reducing Opioids After Surgery. Preliminary results indicate an estimated potential 650,000 pills not released into the public domain, exceeding our collaborative goal of reducing the number of opioids prescribed by 30%. Since 71% of Ontario surgeons take place in an ON-SQIN hospital, the impact of this campaign is truly significant. Congratulations to all participating network teams!

ON-SQIN Recognized

The Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network Community of Practice—Improving Surgical Care in Ontario—was awarded the 2020 Text Freeman Award for Innovation in Education. Thank you to all ON-SQIN members for making this program a success!

Cut the Count Campaign Results Are In!

ON-SQIN Teams!

Congratulations to the following teams for achieving the American College of Surgeons NSQIP recognition for "Prominent Outcomes" for surgical patient care. These seven hospitals were among 89 of the 607 eligible teams who achieved the distinction based on an outstanding composite quality score:

- Etobicoke General Hospital
- London Health Sciences Centre - University Hospital
- Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Peterborough Regional Health Centre
- St. Michael's Hospital
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Thurger Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

Congratulations, ON-SQIN Teams!

ON-SQIN Demonstrates Continued Gains in Reducing Post-Surgical Infections

The July 2020 semi-annual report showed continued gains from the Committed to Better: Reducing Infection After Surgery campaign. A review of "all cases" from July 2018 to July 2020 ON-SQIN demonstrates a 14% decrease in SSI, 35% decrease in UTI, and a 6% decrease in pneumonia. This potentially equates to over 11,700 infections avoided!

Improving Pain Management After Surgery

Montfort Hospital—The Montfort Hospital team surpassed the collaborative goal of reducing opioids by 30%, while effectively managing their patients' pain. They attribute their success to several factors, including surgeons lowering the standard post-op opioid prescription for targeted procedures (inguinal hernia, cholecystectomy, and knee and hip replacement), prescriptions scanned directly into the EMR, and improved patient education around post-operative opioid use. Education included information regarding opioid dosages and duration, side-effects, withdrawal symptoms, and appropriate storage and disposal.

Congratulations to the team for winning the SQIPPY Excellence in Quality Improvement Implementation Award!

Surgical Care and Recovery

The monthly ON-SQIN newsletter highlights what is happening in surgical care and recovery as well as upcoming events. Visit ON-SQIN’s webpage to learn more or contact ON-SQIN@ontariohealth.ca.

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Chirag Chokshi, Ontario Health

St. Michael's Hospital

November 19th to 51 surgeons across the province. For more information or to sign-up, check out the MyPractice: General Surgery webpage. If you are participating in Cut the Count, these reports can help measure the impact of the changes in your practice.