Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

Contributor Shout-Out!

Our long-time colleague, Judy D’Orio, Surgical Clinical Reviewer (SCR), McMaster Children’s Hospital, is retiring! Judy has often acted as consultant whenever we required insight for all things pediatric within our network, and has contributed frequently to our annual meetings and SCR calls. As a mentor, Judy offered insights to new members and has always been willing to go above and beyond for the network. We will miss Judy, but we wish her well in this new chapter!

ACS NSQIP Award Winners

Congratulations to the following teams for achieving the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program’s recognition for meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care. These 12 hospitals were among 90 of the 607 eligible teams who achieved this distinction based on an outstanding composite care. These 12 hospitals were among 90 of the 607 eligible teams who achieved this distinction based on an outstanding composite care.

- Unity Health Toronto—St. Joseph’s Health Centre
- Queensway Carleton Hospital
- North Bay Regional Health Centre
- Hôpital Montfort Hospital
- Cambridge Memorial Hospital

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What’s Happening

Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting

The 6th annual Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting took place virtually on November 5, 2021, with over 200 surgical network members in attendance. We were pleased to have Ontario’s Deputy Minister of Health, Catherine Zahn, offer inspiring opening remarks: “The pandemic has created multiple challenges for the health care system, but ON-SQIN’s commitment to improving quality of care is loud and clear. Restoring surgical care pathway will be a big pillar to health system recovery.”

Participants were impressed by keynote speaker, Dr. Lillian Kao, Professor, Department of Surgery Division Director, Division of Acute Care Surgery, University of Texas, who discussed ‘Quality Improvement: Beyond the Basics,’ and shared opportunities to drive quality improvement in the six domains of quality, including patient-centredness and equity. Also of note was the presentation by Deb Hobson, Safety and Quality Improvement Nurse and Clinical Pathway Specialist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, who spoke practically about creating an enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathway.

A ‘care pathway needs to span the continuum of care and is delivered by a multidisciplinary team.’

Our panel discussion, which included Anna Greenberg, Chief Regional Officer, Toronto & East, Ontario Health, and David Kaplan, Vice-President, Clinical Practice, North York General Hospital, focused on what they are doing to ensure access and equity for surgical patients: “Ontario Health’s approach to system recovery is not to get back to where we were pre-pandemic, but to reach a new normal where we focus on reducing inequities for priority populations, including Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities.”

Special thanks to ON-SQIN teams from Mount Sinai Hospital and St. Michael’s Hospital; Andrea Simpson, Obstetrician and Gynaecologic Surgeon, St. Michael’s Hospital; Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister of Health, Ontario Ministry of Health; speaker at the 6th annual Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting Equity Discussion (top left to bottom right): Anna Greenberg, Chief Regional Officer, Toronto & East, Ontario Health; Deb Hobson, Safety and Quality Improvement Nurse and Clinical Pathway Specialist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, who spoke practically about creating an enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathway.

Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting Equity Discussion (top left to bottom right): Anna Greenberg, Chief Regional Officer, Toronto & East, Ontario Health; Deb Hobson, Safety and Quality Improvement Nurse and Clinical Pathway Specialist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, who spoke practically about creating an enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathway.

Ohio State University Medical Center; Dr. Deb Hobson; and Michael McConnell, a patient advocate who shared his experience with foley catheter reinsertions.

Come Up

- Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings:
  - Jan 18/22, Feb 22/22, Mar 22/22 at 12 p.m.
- Upcoming Surgeon Champion meetings:
  - Jan 25/22, Feb 22/22, Mar 22/22 at 11 a.m.
- Upcoming Canadian Pediatric Collaborative of NSQIP meeting: Jan 7/22
- Release of the next ON-SQIN Update: Feb 2022

Please email us at ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca to share your hospital’s work in this update.

Featured Initiatives

Enhancing Surgical Recovery Mid-Campaign Stories of Success

Mackenzie Health applied an expanded ERAS program to all elective general surgery cases to re-enforce best practices in reducing postoperative infections. Working closely with anesthesia and nursing, they focused on optimizing prophylactic antibiotic timing, increasing the frequency of intra-operative temperature monitoring, and increasing the use of pre-operative temperature warming. Their ERAS initiatives also included change ideas that may reduce the physiological stress of surgery to improve patient recovery, including ERAS documentation and instructions to consume carbohydrate-rich beverages the night before and morning of surgery. ERAS patients are monitored throughout the perioperative period, and follow a postoperative ERAS pathway that includes early ambulation and early intake of solids and liquids. The team credits their success to the dedication of the general surgery team, anesthesia, and nurse educators and having a dedicated ERAS champion from anesthesia.

Niagara Health is participating in the Enhancing Surgical Recovery campaign by implementing an ERAS bundle created by their multi-disciplinary team, which are available online and include the following:

- A Guide to Feeling Better After Colorectal Surgery
- Making Every Bite Count
- Shower Instruction Before Surgery
- Pathway Specialist, Johns Hopkins Medicine, who spoke practically about creating an enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) pathway.

Director of Patient Care, Patty Welychka, described the colorectal ERAS initiative as a ‘win-win’ strategy for Niagara Health, noting dramatic improvement in clinical outcomes and patient experience, as well as creating strong, cohesive teams with a standardized approach to improving and measuring patient care. With strong support from senior executives, the team created an education module explaining the importance of ERAS and the processes to be implemented for colorectal surgery patients, which was delivered via our online learning management system to nurses, clinical managers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitian personal support workers, and ward clerks. They also created a Colorectal/Cancer Surgery Care Pathway for their nurses as a guide, and their surgeons use Colorectal/Cancer Post-Op Order sets based on ERAS protocols and guidelines. Welychka notes: “I am pleased with the outcome of this huge project and amazed at what our team has created and executed during a challenging time. I am very proud of our team!”

To learn more about ON-SQIN and how you can get involved, please visit our website or contact ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca. Past issues of these updates can be found here.