**Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network**

**Contributor Shout Out!**

In this new feature of the ON-SQIN Update, we will recognize a member who has significantly contributed to the Network over the last year by providing support to colleagues, contributing resources for quality improvement, and/or the Enhancing Surgical Recovery Campaign, and participating or presenting in the ON-SQIN Community of Practice.

This issue we acknowledge Cristina Huffman, SCR from Niagara Health. Cristina has been an instrumental support not only to her team in Niagara, but also to the Ontario Health team. Cristina has shared Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) clinical pathways and ERAS Excel templates with the Network, has promoted the campaign in her community, and always contributes meaningfully at both the Ontario and Canadian SCR meetings. Thank you Cristina for your hard work!

**Cut the Count Campaign Successes**

**Quinte Health Care**—In year 1 of the Cut the Count Campaign (2019/20), Quinte Health Care standardized prescriptions for targeted procedures, which resulted in a significant reduction in opioid prescriptions. For example, in 2019/20, Quinte Health Care did not prescribe opioids for thyroid surgery (2019/20), reducing opioid prescriptions from 73% to 22%. In the past year, they have continued to improve by implementing a new opioid protocol for all surgical procedures, including thyroid surgery.

**William Osler Health System**—Over the last two years, William Osler Health System’s NSQIP committee felt the best way to enact change would be to provide the data directly to the surgeons to enable them to design plans for improvement. At Osler, they provide quarterly scorecards to each division and to the entire department of surgery that summarize NSQIP data on four main outcomes. These differences between the different specialties but typically include overall morbidity, mortality, SSI, and readmission/emergency department visits. Each outcome is depicted over four quarters and includes patient comments and maximum over each quarter. As an example of their efforts, the team has seen a significant change in prescribing patterns for thyroidectomy surgery. Of 231 surgeries performed in Q3 of 2019, the mean opioid equivalent prescribed was 140 mg. By Q2 of 2020, this dropped by 50% to below 80 mg.

**January 2021 NSQIP Ontario Collaborative Semi-Annual Report (SAR)**

Our recent collaborative SAR confirmed that the efforts of our member hospitals in reducing postsurgical adverse events are paying off. For example, the collaborative adjusted rate of all cases of SSI has decreased by 8.6% since 2018 (the beginning of the Reducing Infected After Surgery Collaborative campaign), and the adjusted rate of readmission has decreased by 13.4%. Congratulations to the hospitals who rank in the top five on these outcomes in the January 2021 SAR: SSI 1. Cambridge Memorial Hospital 2. Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital 3. North York General Hospital 4. Etobicoke General Hospital 5. St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton. Readmissions 1. Mount Sinai Hospital 2. St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton 3. Halton Healthcare, Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital 4. Lakeridge Health 5. St. Michael’s Hospital.

**Effective Surgical Team Communication**

Our upcoming Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Spring Meeting will feature a session entitled "Enhancing Surgical Team Communication. Here is a sneak peek of what this portion of the upcoming meeting will include from both Amanda McFarlan, Trauma Program Registry Manager & Quality Assurance Analyst, and Liza McLean, Surgical Clinical Reviewer from Markham Stouffville Hospital.

St. Joseph’s Health Centre, Unity Health—We found that regular short Zoom meetings really helped keep us on track (30 minutes every other week at a time that worked for the whole team, including our Surgeon Champions). These meetings are a chance to check in, follow up on loose ends, clarify definitions on new NSQIP elements such as the ERAS fields, share real-time data and progress on projects, keep up on corporate changes, and include and engage with the whole team, including those working in and outside the hospital building.

Markham Stouffville Hospital—Communication is one of the most important components in keeping our team engaged. We use emails to update team members on the status and progress of our SQIP. We have regular meetings with our Surgical Quality Committee. Some of the items covered during these meetings include positive feedback from stakeholders, recommendations/suggestions from our surgical patients, and SQIP intervention updates. We have posters posted throughout the hospital to display the team’s work.

The Department of Surgery meetings occur every other month, and ACS NSQIP is a permanent agenda item. Surgeons are notified both by email and in person of occurrences and are given the opportunity to discuss as needed. SAR successes due to quality improvement practices are noted, and surgeons are congratulated for their contributions and efforts.

Keeping the team engaged has been a bit of a challenge due to competing priorities related the pandemic; however, we continue to maintain our NSQIN as a priority. Little reminders to our team members help to keep our projects on track. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our Surgical Quality Committee has switched to Zoom meetings. We have kept the same time and dates, which we think has help with consistent attendance. The SCR has made some accommodations by conducting one-on-one meetings with individual key stakeholders at their convenience.

**What’s Happening**

**NSQIP ON- National Surgical Quality Improvement Program – Ontario**

- Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Virtual Spring Meeting: June 11 at 8 a.m.
- Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings: June 17, July 15, and August 19 at 12 p.m.
- Upcoming Surgeon Champion meetings: June 22, July 27, and August 24 at 7 a.m.
- August 2021—release of the next ON-SQIN Update. Please email us at ONSONAquality@ontariohealth.ca to share your hospital’s work in the next update

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