

Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

ISSUE 23
Winter 2022

44

Number of hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

25

Number of hospital sites that created a 2021/22 SQIP

18

Average number of participants at the Surgical Clinical Reviewer Open Forum meeting

27

Average number of participants in Surgeon Champion Meetings

35

Average number of participants at the Canadian Pediatric Collaborative

368

Total number of ON-SQIN team 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



Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre's Surgical Quality Improvement Team (from left to right): Caitlin Cornish, Dee Naidu, Ashlie Nadler, and Stephanie Mason

What's Happening



Lisa McLean, Surgical Clinical Reviewer, and Paddy Whelan, Surgeon Champion, Markham Stouffville Hospital, Oak Valley Health System

Featured Initiatives



Yvette Young, Surgical Clinical Reviewer, Hamilton Health Sciences

ON-SQIN Collaborative Campaign 2022-2023

The Ontario surgical quality network has decided to continue our *Committed to Better: Enhancing Surgical Recovery* campaign for a second year. We are asking teams to renew their commitment to improve surgical outcomes and support pandemic recovery by implementing new initiatives, or building on their chosen indicators from last year, with the aim of improving at least one surgical outcome by 25%. Further, teams are asked to commit to advancing equity in surgical care to maximize the quality of care regardless of gender, ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic status. Year 2 of the campaign will be detailed in an upcoming webinar.

January 2022 NSQIP-Ontario Semi-Annual Report

This semi-annual report (SAR) includes risk-adjusted data for surgeries that occurred between July 2020 and June 2021. We are pleased to report that hospital all-cases urinary tract infection (UTI) rates in Ontario have decreased for the fourth year in a row, and mortality and readmission and pneumonia rates continue to improve. There is, however, an opportunity for improvement—especially in some of the indicators addressed in our *Enhancing Surgical Recovery* campaign including surgical site infections (SSI) and venous thromboembolism (VTE).

Congratulations to the hospitals who rank in the top five lowest rates of post-operative UTI in the January 2022 NSQIP-Ontario SAR: 1. Cambridge Memorial Hospital; 2. William Osler Health System—Brampton; 3. Hamilton Health Sciences—Hamilton General Site; 4. Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; and 5. Niagara Health System—St Catharines. Additional top five hospital rankings for other key indicators will be shared in upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer and Surgeon Champion meetings.

Coming Up

- **Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings:** Mar 17/22 and April 21/22 at 12 p.m.
 - **Upcoming Surgeon Champion meetings:** Mar 22/22 and April 21/22 at 7 a.m.
 - **Upcoming Canadian Pediatric Collaborative of NSQIP meeting:** Mar 4/22
 - **Release of the next ON-SQIN Update:** May 2022
- Please email us at ONSQIN@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](https://www.ontariohealth.ca/quality-improvement) or contact ONSQIN@ontariohealth.ca. Past issues of these updates can be found [here](#).

Contributor Shout-Out

In this feature, we like to spotlight an ON-SQIN member or team that has made a significant contribution to the network. This time, we'd like to mention **Lisa McLean**, Surgical Clinical Reviewer (SCR) at Markham Stouffville Hospital, Oak Valley Health, for finding the time to contribute to every SCR Open Forum and also for mentoring several new team members. Lisa's team recently won the "Greatest Improvement in Surgical Outcomes" SQIPPY award and Surgeon Champion, **Dr. Patrick Whelan**, attributes much of the team's success to Lisa's dedication. Lisa is always willing to answer questions and share her insights with the network.

New Feature: Pandemic Response

Yvette Young, SCR at Hamilton Health Sciences, reflects on being an SCR during the pandemic:

Looking back over nearly 2 years of COVID challenges, including operating room slowdowns impacting cases entered per cycle, suspended NSQIP "lockout dates," and redeployments, it's been a challenge to perform accurate data entry and continue quality improvement work.

However, I have found some strategies to be helpful in continuing to work toward two campaign and hospital goals:

1. **Regular touchpoints:** *It is helpful to maintain ongoing communication via a pre-booked weekly check-in meeting with the project leader, and to keep our monthly project team meeting. Although sometimes we've had to cancel last minute, it's been key to recognize when those of our team with patient-facing roles have not had capacity so that I can take on more of the work to keep our project moving forward.*
2. **Ignoring the suspended lockout:** *The other challenge for me has been to keep on top of completing NSQIP data entry cycles when deployed to other work at the hospital. I think ignoring the suspended NSQIP platform lockout has been helpful. Although shorter cycles made it easier to get through the entries, if I let too many cycles go, I knew it would be very difficult to catch up.*
3. **Put some things off:** *The final helpful strategy I found was to continually remind myself and my teams that everyone is experiencing these challenges and pressures, and that we have to just support each other and "be okay" with putting off some of the improvement work, or "be okay" taking a vacation cycle from NSQIP data entry to relieve some of the pressure.*

Enhancing Recovery Campaign Progress

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Despite the pandemic and leadership changes, the perioperative team at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton has made inroads in their quality improvement projects. They demonstrated an overall decrease of 27% in prescribed opioid pills over the last two years for outpatient surgeries, and their efforts were further exemplified in the NSQIP semi-annual report (SAR), where they were rated exemplary in all-cases surgical site infection, pneumonia, and readmissions. The team is also involved in augmentation to the hospital electronic medical records (EMR) system. New Surgeon Champion, **Dr. David Choi**, notes: "We also understand the importance of feedback to drive and recognize success within our institution, and are working on an EMR-based form of feedback to staff, services, as well as individual surgeons." Congratulations to the team on your successes!

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

As part of the Enhancing Surgical Recovery campaign, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre has implemented ERAS protocols specific to elderly patients in general surgery. As identified by surgical staff in the Acute Care Surgery, Trauma, and Surgical Oncology teams, these protocols will target patients over 70 years of age having elective or emergency surgery with the aim of decreasing length of stay and increasing those discharged to their current place of residence (e.g., home, retirement home, long-term care). A multidisciplinary working group has identified several opportunities for improvement, including increasing awareness that elderly-focused care can be lifesaving, and focusing limited time on acute issues such as early mobility.

Surgical 411 Podcast

As part of our ongoing commitment to quality improvement, we have a new feature to add to the list of ON-SQIN supports: our podcast, "Surgical 411." Our most recent episode features an interview with **Dr. Patrick Whelan**, Surgeon Champion at Markham Stouffville Hospital. Dr. Whelan shared how his engagement in surgical quality improvement has evolved over his time in the network. For past episodes, visit the "Attachments" tab of the [Surgical Quality Improvement page](#) on Quorum.

2022 ACS Quality and Safety Conference—Call for Abstracts

This year's [American College of Surgeon's \(ACS\) Quality and Safety Conference](#) will take place virtually from July 15 to 18, 2022. The deadline for submitting an abstract for the upcoming ACS Quality and Safety Conference is March 13, 2022.