

Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network

ISSUE 22
Fall 2021

45

Number of hospital sites in NSQIP-ON

41

Number of hospital sites that created a 2021/22 SQIP

25

Average number of participants in Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings

18

Average number of participants in Surgeon Champion Meetings

359

Total number of ON-SQIN teams members

2000+

Number of Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting participants

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



Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister of Health, Ontario Ministry of Health; speaker at the 6th annual Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting

Contributor Shout-Out!

Our long-time colleague, **Judy D'Ilario**, 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 quality score:

- Cambridge Memorial Hospital
- Halton Healthcare Services—Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital
- Hôpital Montfort Hospital
- London Health Sciences Centre—University Hospital
- North Bay Regional Health Centre
- North York General Hospital
- Oak Valley Health—Markham Stouffville Hospital
- Queensway Carleton Hospital
- Sinai Health—Mount Sinai Hospital
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- Unity Health Toronto—St. Joseph's Health Centre
- Unity Health Toronto—St. Michael's Hospital

Coming Up

- **Upcoming Surgical Clinical Reviewer meetings:** Dec 16/21, Jan 20/22, Feb 17/22 at 12 p.m.
- **Upcoming Surgeon Champion meetings:** Jan 25/22, Feb 22/22, Mar 22/22 at 7 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

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](#).

What's Happening



Ontario Surgical Quality Meeting Equity Discussion (top left to bottom right): Anna Greenberg, Chief Regional Officer, Toronto & East, Ontario Health; David Kaplan, Vice-President, Clinical Institutes and Quality Programs, Ontario Health; David Gomez, Acute Care and Trauma Surgeon, St. Michael's Hospital; Andrea Simpson, Obstetrician and Gynaecologic Surgeon, St. Michael's Hospital

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 very 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, challenged the audience to think differently about 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 London Children's Hospital, who shared how they have achieved success in implementing ERAS.

Cambridge Memorial Hospital Reduces CAUTIs

Cambridge Memorial Hospital strives to reduce the number of catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) by (1) using best practice standards from the [Choosing Wisely toolkit](#); (2) the creation of a policy for early catheter removal (empowering nurses to make informed decisions to safely discontinue catheters); (3) setting clear and concise parameters in which a catheter is acceptable, including when exclusion criteria need to be considered; and (5) decreasing the number of indwelling catheter insertions for their surgical population. The team uses a daily dashboard to audit the number of foley catheter reinsertions, which helps map UTI trends and enables them to complete a root cause analysis if a patient develops an infection. Their success is measured by tracking the number of UTIs per month, and they have noticed a steady decrease from 32 UTIs/month in April 2021 to 19 UTIs in August 2021. Moving forward, the team plans to conduct inpatient huddles regarding "lose the tube" best practices. Congratulations, team!

Featured Initiatives



Mackenzie Health Team (top left to bottom right): Irina Zeltser, Carmelina Lamanna-Petta; Shaw Ullah; Melany Blair; Lorraine Carrington; Pamela Richards; Charmaine Samuels; and Aaron Jackson (Natalia Movshovich not shown)

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 anaesthesia 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, anaesthesia, and nurse educators and having a dedicated ERAS champion from anaesthesia.

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](#) (credited to St. Joseph Healthcare Hamilton)
- [Making Every Bite Count](#) and [Optimizing Nutrition Before Surgery](#)
- [Shower Instruction Before Surgery](#)

Director of Patient Care, **Patty Welychka**, describes 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 protocol 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!"*



Ontario Health