



## Michigan Bariatric Surgery Collaborative (MBSC)

Launched in 2005

### Current Number of Participants:

- 26 Michigan hospitals
- 62 surgeons

### Description

The Michigan Bariatric Surgery Collaborative is a regional voluntary consortium of hospitals and surgeons that perform bariatric, or weight-loss surgery in Michigan. The goal is to improve the quality of care for patients undergoing bariatric surgery. Participating hospitals submit data to the MBSC clinical outcomes registry. Three times per year, the group meets to examine data and to design and implement changes in care that result in better outcomes for bariatric patients.

### Select Objectives:

- Reduce complication rates for patients who undergo bariatric surgery.
- Submit data to the MBSC clinical outcomes registry.

### Top-line Results:

- Overall complication rates have decreased 24 percent.
- Visits to emergency rooms following surgery have declined 31 percent.

### The Coordinating Center

The University of Michigan Health System serves as the Coordinating Center and is responsible for collecting and analyzing comprehensive clinical data from the participating hospitals. It uses these analyses to examine practice patterns, generate new knowledge linking processes of care to outcomes and identify best practices and opportunities for quality and efficiency improvement. The Center further supports participants in establishing quality improvement goals and assists them in implementing best practices.

Nancy Birkmeyer, Ph.D., associate professor of surgery, University of Michigan Health System, serves as project director. John Birkmeyer, M.D., professor of surgery, UMHS, serves as the project's co-director. Amanda O'Reilly, R.N., serves



as clinical nurse project manager and Andrea Osborne, M.S., serves as project coordinator.

### **Collaborative Quality Initiatives**

Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, Collaborative Quality Initiatives bring together Michigan physicians and hospital partners to address some of the most common and costly areas of surgical and medical care. As a result of the collection and analysis of procedural and outcomes data from each hospital, the participants are able to implement changes in practice based on the knowledge acquired from the initiative. These changes in practices lead to increased efficiencies, improved outcomes, including decreased complication and mortality rates, and enhanced value like improved clinical outcomes and lower costs.

This model is the first of its kind nationally and is highly regarded as an innovative approach to improving health care quality and enhancing health care value. Findings from these programs have been published extensively in peer reviewed journals, adding measurably to knowledge about optimal approaches to patient care. In 2006, this unique approach received a *Best of Blue* award from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association for collaborative efforts in "excellence and innovation." In 2007, the program was recognized by the National Business Coalition on Health with an *eValue8 Health Plan Innovation* award."

**For more information, contact:**

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