



Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons Quality Collaborative

Year launched: 2005

Current number of participants: 33 Michigan hospitals

Summary description:

This collaboration between the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan aims to reduce the risk of complications and improve treatment methods for cardiothoracic surgery by working with Michigan hospitals to ensure that optimal care processes are established.

Select objectives:

- Ensure that optimal and appropriate surgical care processes are established in treatment for cardio thoracic surgery.

Top-line results:

- At targeted sites, the use of internal mammary artery grafts increased from 82.0 percent to 92.7 percent.
- Prolonged ventilation (mechanical ventilation for more than 24 hours after surgery) at targeted sites has decreased from 19 percent to 13.8 percent.
- There is an estimated cost savings of \$25,000 per case when ventilation is not prolonged.
- Appropriate beta-blocker use (to help control heart rate during surgery) increased to 5.1 percent above the national average.

About 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, to generate new knowledge linking processes of care to outcomes, and to 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. Richard Prager, M.D., professor of surgery at University of Michigan Health System serves as project director. Patty Theurer, B.S.N., quality initiatives coordinator and Gail Bell, M.S.N., data management supervisor are project managers.

About Collaborative Quality Initiatives:

These initiatives, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, 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 implement changes in practice based on the knowledge acquired from the initiative. These changes in practices lead to increased efficiencies, improved outcomes (decreased complication and mortality rates) and enhanced value (improved clinical outcomes and lower costs).

This model is the first of its kind nationally and is highly regarded as an 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 and 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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