



Michigan Surgical Quality Collaborative

Year launched: 2005

Current number of participants: 34 Michigan hospitals

Summary description:

Michigan surgeons, the American College of Surgeons, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network established this collaborative to evaluate and improve the quality of general and vascular and multispecialty surgery, while reducing health care costs. Using the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, MSQC applies evidence-based metrics to evaluate surgical practice.

Select objectives:

- Reduce complications in areas such as wound infection, sepsis, pneumonia, prolonged ventilation and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Top-line results:

- 10 percent reduction in mortality rates
- 37 percent reduction in complications following surgery
- 18 percent reduction in surgical site infections

About the project's 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 to improve quality and efficiency. The center further supports participants in establishing quality improvement goals and assists them in implementing best practices.

Darrell "Skip" Campbell, M.D., chief medical officer, chief of clinical affairs and professor of the general surgery section at the University of Michigan Health System serves as project director. Laurel Phillips, R.N., M.S.N., M.S.Q.C., is administrative director.



About 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 (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 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 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.

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