**Mid-America Vascular Study Group**  
Iowa Heart Center, West Des Moines IA  
April 11, 2016  
9:00-3:00 pm  

**Meeting Minutes:**  

**Attended:** Joe Schneider, MD: Medical Director (Northwestern Medicine-Central DuPage Hospital [CDH])

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Bik</td>
<td>Data Manager</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Borromeo, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>David Chew, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>James Ebaugh, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jane Gandy, PA</td>
<td>Physician Assistant</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>Lindsey Geik</td>
<td>RN</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>Harold Hsu, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>Laurie Kuestner, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>Mary Jo Ramey</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>Jacoby Stieler, ARNP</td>
<td>ARNP</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<td>Mackenzie Udelhoven</td>
<td>RN</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Hoel, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Northwestern</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Suzi Guignon</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>All 4 SSM hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>TJ Schneider II, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>SSM St. Joseph</td>
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<td>*David Sutton</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>All 4 SSM hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kamal Gupta, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>University of Kansas MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Mehaffey</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>University of Kansas MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay Quint, MD</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>University of Kansas MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila Zani</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>University of Kansas MC</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Andrea Ergas</td>
<td>NP</td>
<td>University of Kansas MC</td>
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<td>*Marlene Hunteman</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>All 3 OSF hospitals</td>
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<td>*Lorraine Zacarias</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>All 3 OSF hospitals</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Tiffany Whitaker</td>
<td>Hospital Manager</td>
<td>Southern Illinois University</td>
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<td>Carrie Bosela</td>
<td>SVS PSO</td>
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<td>Jim Wadzinski</td>
<td>SVS PSO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betti Kerrigan</td>
<td>M2S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Zeff</td>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>Iowa Heart Center</td>
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* attended on line
**Welcome and Introduction**: Dr. Joe Schneider, Medical Director

**Review and approval of Fall 2015 meeting minutes**

**No Old Business Discussion**

**National VQI Update (see slides)**: Carrie Bosela, SVS PSO

First Annual VQ Meeting: June 8, 2016 National Harbor, MD (SVS annual meeting)

- 8:00am to 12:00 pm Data Managers Session
  - Interactive Panel Discussion on Key Registry Topics
  - PVI case abstraction
  - Producing and Interpreting Reports

- 12:00pm to 5:00pm All VQI Participants
  - Key Note Speaker: Dr. Englesbe
  - Utilizing Registries for QI Opportunities: Dr. Ted James
  - VQI QI success stories: Memorial South Bend, Carolinas Vascular Quality Initiative, Beaumont Health System, El Camino

Discussed how there are currently 379 centers now enrolled in VQI in 46 different states. Over 285,000 procedures entered as of the first of April 2016

2016 SVS PSO Recognition Award with points rewarded for: 1) physician and ancillary staff attendance at regional meetings; 2) long-term F/U percentage and 3) number of procedure groups the site participates in

- Centers with LTFU less than 50% will receive mentoring from a peer advisor and a LTFU toolkit from the PSO to assist them in improving their LTFU rates

Vascular Medicine Registry to be released by the end of 2016. Focus on Medical Management of Carotid, Aortic and Lower Extremity vascular disease.

EVAR Cost Project with MedAssets: 18 VQI sites participating in Pilot

- Understanding the economics of vascular procedures is critically important
- Combined hospital cost data (MedAssets) with detailed clinical data (VQI) to accurately benchmark similar procedures

**EPIC Update:**

- Dr. Michael Stoner and Lisa Spellman at University of Rochester. Lisa now works at CDH. Joe Schneider and Cheryl Jackson have already met with her, clearly a great resource.
- Working with Epic to build CEA form that can be transferred via JSON file to M2S
- Work should be done and ready for testing end of April 2016
• “How to” documentation will be shared with all VQI EPIC users

Meaningful Use:
VQI meets objective 10, measure 3: use of a specialized registry for meaningful use per CMS only if members subscribe and use “DATA IMPORT” feature of VQI. Contact Pathwayssupport@m2s.com for more information about data import.

Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)
- Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs) are two payment alternatives that encourage value based rather than volume based reimbursement.
- Physicians who receive payment from Medicare are required to participate in MIPS or APMs.
- Specifications and requirements are still being finalized by CMS.

MIPS
- MIPS begins with payment adjustments in 2019 based on quality data reported in 2017. MIPS adjustments, either positive or negative will start at 4% up to 9% in 2022. MIPS scores will be based on 4 domains; quality of care, resource use, meaningful use of EHRs and participation in clinical practice improvement activities – these are still being finalized by CMS.

APM
- For APMs, beginning in 2019, physicians who successfully participate in an APM can receive incentive payments of 5% per year. It requires some financial risk for the provider and requirements can be met if a provider is in a patient centered medical home or ACO. Providers must meet increasing thresholds annually for percentage of revenue received through APMS.
- SVS is developing a disease specific APM for vascular surgeons in collaboration with ACS and researchers from Brandeis University who developed the original episode payment program for CMS.

Pathways Development Update: Betti Kerrigan, M2S
- Analytics Reporting update: to be released by the end of Q2
  - New Health System benchmarking
  - New Physician benchmarking
  - New ability to drill down to the patient’s record on any analytics report instead of having to download the data in excel to answer outcome questions
- PVI changes being released in time for VAM meeting where time is dedicated during the morning am session for a case abstraction and questions
- Acquisition of M2S by MedStreaming
- Industry project updates
Regional Data Review (see slides): Joe Schneider, MD

I. Long Term follow up 75% for region: better than national average but still 4 centers in the region that are below 50% and on probation. SVS PSO staff will be working with these centers to increase their LTFU. Discussion of transparency of names on the center report for LTFU. Does not violate PSO regulations. After some discussion decided to add to the post meeting survey to see if majority rules yes or no, if no majority decision per survey, Executive committee will have a call to decide.

II. Discharge Antiplatelet and Statin possible QI project; region currently at 60-100%. Recent correspondence sent by SVS to share resources for sites who want to improve their D/C medication compliance:

   Many of you are familiar with the recent studies that demonstrated improved five year survival rates with patient discharge on antiplatelet and statin medications in the VQI. To encourage continued treatment and coordination of services for vascular patients with these medications, we have provided a sample generic letter to physicians that are co-managing care and a generic letter for patients with vascular disease. Also, attached is a flyer/ graphic that displays results showing the association between 5-year survival rates and patients taking antiplatelet and statin medications.

   We have also included links to patient and physician letters developed by the Southern California and the Southeastern regional quality groups that includes information on specific vascular medications.

   Southern California Letters
   Southeastern Regional Letters

III. Percentage of Infrainguinal Bypass Procedures with Chlorhexidine or Chlorhexidine + Alcohol Skin Prep (2015): Regional variation 1-100% discussion about abstraction issue for low users. Would like to see infection rate by center to correlate with this report.

IV. Percentage of Percutaneous Femoral PVI Procedures Using Ultrasound Guidance (2015) Excludes cut - down: Believe this is a documentation issue at some sites, very low use in this region. Would like to see hematoma rate by center to correlate with this report.
V. **PVI: Percent of Patients with ABI or TBI Assessed Before Procedure (2015):** new report this year, surprised at low reporting of this 50% and would encourage sites to talk to abstractors if they are having trouble finding this data in the EMR.

VI. **EVAR: Rate of Sac Diameter Reporting at Long-Term Follow Up:** Iowa Heart high performer 100% for this measure. Presented how they achieve these results. Standard orders/protocols for every vascular procedure.

VII. **Carotid Endarterectomy Percentage of Patients with Length of Stay > 1 Day:** Statistically significant high performer, asked to present at the fall meeting.

VIII. **Hemodialysis Access: Percentage of Primary AVF vs. Graft:** new report this year, surprising 50-98% AVF grafts in the region. Would encourage sites to look into this abstraction or discuss with the group why high use of prosthetic grafts at the fall meeting.

**Arterial Quality Committee Update:** Carrie Bosela for Dr. Todd Vogel

PVI form being revised, minor and major revisions reviewed and discussed. Release in next couple of months. PSO has started data auditing using statistical methods of identifying out of range data, highly improbable data combinations (i.e. claudicant in a wheelchair). PSO staff is contacting sites to inquiry about these findings to review and possible update the data.

**Venous Quality Committee Update:** Carrie Bosela for Dr. Sapan Desai

IVC Filter: 4778 procedures
- Current workgroup developing an IVC filter retrieval reminder report/email notification
- **CMS Quality Measure:** Appropriate management of Retrievable IVC filters

Varicose Veins: 3245 procedures
- Focus on vein centers, integrate with vein-specific EMR vendors
  - VeinSpec
  - SonoSoft
  - StreamlineMD
  - MedStreaming
Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Update: Dr. Andrew Hoel

National Proposals New Portal for Submission:

http://abstracts123.com/svs1/

Current status of regional projects:

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<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Investigator</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of eversion and patch endarterectomy</td>
<td>Joe Schneider, CDH</td>
<td>Published JVS 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparison of aortoiliac reconstruction techniques</td>
<td>Karen Ho, NM</td>
<td>Presented MVSS 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effect of antiplatelet and statin on vascular patients with ESRD</td>
<td>Bob Steppacher, UC</td>
<td>Presented SCVS 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEA in octo and nano-genarians</td>
<td>Joe Schneider, CDH/NM</td>
<td>Submitted MVSS 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact of readmission on mortality in aneurysm repair</td>
<td>Andy Hoel, NM</td>
<td>Pending data Apr 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atherectomy outcomes in PAD</td>
<td>Kamal Gupta, KUMC</td>
<td>Submitted to RAC</td>
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QI presentations: (see slides)

- Andrew Hoel, MD
- Cynthia Bik, RN-CES
- Jose Borromeo, MD
- Kamal Gupta, MD (slides not included)
- Harold Hsu, MD

Data Manager Report:

- Cheryl Jackson is the regional lead data manager and attends quarterly calls with the other 16 data manager leads for national update with Carrie Bosela. Between those calls Cheryl has calls with all Mid-America data managers.
- Only 4 Data Managers from Mid-America have approval to attend the first annual VQI meeting June 8, 2016. Funding is the issue, so plea to docs to help more to attend.
• Regional Data Managers agreed to participate in an inter-rater reliability project with release of the new PVI registry.

**Fund Raising for Regional Meetings:**

Options:
- Industry SVS Grant
- Dues
- Rotate hospitals and host hospital funds
- Regional Vascular Society

Iowa Health reported they had funding from Cook for this meeting who pulled out at the last minute. Carrie feels there was lack of understanding of the grant request and will get involved with funding for the Fall meeting at Mid-Western.

**Round Table:** no discussion

**Expanding Participation:** List of “interested” centers in the region included in the slide deck, current Mid-America VSG members encouraged to reach out to any peers at those centers to help increase membership in the group. Dr. Schneider agreed to go over the list with M2S in the near future during a phone call to see how he can help.

**Next Meeting/s:**

Sept 7, 2016 Columbus, OH (to coincide with MVSS) 10am-4pm Place – TBD

- Spring 2017 – KUMC – Kansas City, Kansas Date – agreed April 10, 2017 tentative date add to the post meeting survey
- Fall 2017 – Conjunction with MVSS in Chicago
- Spring 2018 – Peoria has offered to host; need to confirm