

## Mid Atlantic Vascular Study Group Meeting

April 20, 2017

7:00 am - 9:00 am

The Union League of Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA.

### Attendees:

Maria Albert (Christiana Care), Azalea Barrozo, RN (Medstar), Lisa Baro, BSN (Reading), Nadine Caputo, MS (SVS PSO), Feliz Costantini, CPHQ (U. of MD), Robert Garvin, MD (Geisinger), Eric Jaxheimer MD, Deb Macaulay (M2S), Heidi Martin, MS (UPENN), Thad Neidrick, CRNP, (Geisinger), Amy Pajula, RN (Christiana Care), Danielle Pineda, MD (Abington), Sean Ryan, MD (Beebe), Laura Santoriello RN (Atlantic), Grace Wang (UPENN)

**Dr. Grace Wang** opened the meeting by stressing the importance of using the VQI data for quality improvement and highlighted the 2 national quality initiatives. She noted that the Mid-Atlantic region has a high volume of vascular procedures, but less than half of the procedures are performed by vascular surgeons.

### National VQI update by *Nadine Caputo*

- Volume of participating centers = 412 centers in 46 states; the volume of procedures exceeds 350,000. An 18<sup>th</sup> regional group has just been added to the VQI from Canada with centers from diverse areas including Ontario, Vancouver and Thunder Bay.
- Nadine highlighted the new *member only* website to help members share quality improvement and best practice information more easily between and within Regional Quality Groups. The site includes a new password protected *topical discussion forum* for VQI members. Lead Regional Data Managers are currently pilot testing the site; expected to be operational in June 2017.
- The VQI@VAM meeting in San Diego begins on **Tuesday, May 30, 2017** with a half-day session for data managers followed by a poster session and reception. **Wednesday, May 31st** is a full day session for both physicians and data managers. Most of the topics for 2017 were submitted by members. You can review the agenda at <http://www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/VQI-Annual-Meeting-2017-Detailed-Agenda-Speakers-4.21.2017.pdf> or register for the meeting at <https://vascular.org/meetings/2017-vascular-annual-meeting>
- Progress on the blinded datasets was reviewed and the new processes implemented for improvement were described.

### Group Discussion

The challenges of LTFU at centers where numerous patients are transferred into the hospital from long distances was discussed and the need to coordinate information with local physicians. In terms of LTFU imaging, several physicians commented that there was likely a failure to capture the data or document the service. The manpower requirements to maintain strong LTFU rates was also noted.

A question was raised on whether statins and antiplatelets should be prescribed for patients with venous conditions and the response is that these medications are being prescribed and tracked for patients with arterial disease.

Brief discussions:

- Approaches to reducing LOS for EVAR included adding a urology PA consult for patients with urinary retention and working with visiting nurses for patients discharged with catheters.
- IVC filter retrieval rates were discussed and the patient safety aspects were also discussed and the need to increase patient and provider awareness of this issue. Centers are beginning to establish processes to more closely track filter removal.

#### **Presentations**

**Dr. Sean Ryan** described his experience in establishing the VQI at Beebe hospital. They created 'cheat sheets' or worksheets that they post and make available in the OR so critical VQI data is entered prospectively by the providers. They also place LTFU worksheets in the physician offices. They plan to use VQI data for surgeon specific report cards.

**Dr. Danielle Pineda** highlighted her experiences at Abington hospital with VQI data and expanding into 3 hospitals in the Jefferson hospital system. Their goal is to demonstrate that VQI is improving patient outcomes and decreasing LOS. They are analyzing intraoperative use of grafts and stents and comparing outcomes with the use of clinical pathways.

**Filiz Costantini** described a proposed pilot study to assess inter rater reliability across coders in this region and identify areas where there are inconsistencies. She expects to present data at the Fall meeting and is planning a half-day session for data managers.

**2017 Fall Meeting:** The fall meeting will be held at the University of Maryland Medical Center. This changed venue (separate from the EVS meeting) is taking place to bring about more participation from the institutions joining the Mid Atlantic from the Chesapeake.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nadine Caputo**

**Grace Wang, MD**