Welcome, Minute Approval from Spring Meeting:
Ed Garrett, MD Medical Director

Tennessee TCAR Data Review: Chris Cunningham, SilkRoad (See presentation attached)

National VQI Update (see slides): Carrie Bosela, SVS PSO
VQI Overview and Stats
- 502 centers are now enrolled in VQI in 46 states and Canada. Singapore just finalize contracts as well. Over 520,000 procedures have been entered

- Date Integrity Audits underway:
  - Inter-rater reliability exercise: We asked for volunteers to abstract identical cases for selected registries to see how often they agree/disagree. This will let us
identify problem data elements that we can improve with better help text and/or training.

- Random Center Audits: we plan to audit random cases at selected centers in order to 1) estimate the overall VQI data-element error rate, and 2) identify areas for improvement. Details to come!
- New PSO-Center Communication Tool for Data Cleanup: We will use our new web-based “Audit Tool” to ask centers to verify/correct suspicious data entries (out of range, improbable or impossible values in specific records).

**Registry Updates and New Registries:**
- Hemodialysis Access: Under major revision with release in 2019 (TBD)
- Vascular Medicine Registry: Finalizing changes for release in 2019 (TBD)
- 30-day Follow-up Measures
- Varicose Vein: Under revisions to only collect data on treated leg (shorten the form)
- Venous Stent Registry: Under development
- PVI short form: Under development

**Updates on VQI Initiatives**
- October: QI Guide Implementation series
  - November: TEVAR/Complex EVAR vs. EVAR
  - December: QI Guide Implementation series

**VQI@VAM:**
- **Introduction to the New Member Guide**
  - By: Nancy Heatley, Education and Research Projects Manager
- **Tools and Resources of the Vascular Quality Initiative**
  - By: Cheryl Jackson, Director of Quality
- Links to the new Member Guide and the new QI Project Guide Supplement can be found on the Members Only section of the VQI website in the National Section: [https://www.vqi.org/national-data/](https://www.vqi.org/national-data/)

**RAC Update:** Mike McNally, MD
- **Change in RAC Policy:**
  - Dropping the need to avoid overlap as a criteria for SVS PSO RAC approval.
  - Research protocols now need only to demonstrate feasibility that the research can be accomplished using data available in the VQI dataset.
  - Overlap with an existing project will not be used as grounds for rejection of a research protocol application.
The Recipient agrees to present or publish approved project within 24 months. The SVS PSO RAC reserves the right to ask Recipient to return the dataset if no progress is demonstrated according to these guidelines.


**AQC Update:** Patrick Ryan, MD

- Major Helptext clean up underway with the registry committees. Hope to release by the first of the year to make the helptext more clear and scientifically supported.
- **Physician and Center Dashboards:** Physician and center stats on critical outcomes by registry over the past year, including regional and VQI benchmarks. First physician reports delivered in February and will be updated in fall. Center-level dashboards planned for June.
- **Comparative COPI Reports:** We will update prior COPI reports with new data to check centers' improvement. EVAR LOS planned for May, INFRA LOS for August and INFRA SSI in September.
- **National QI Initiative Updates:** Reports will be issued quarterly starting in March tracking centers' progress on Discharge Medications and Follow-Up Imaging After EVAR.

**VQC Update:** No regional representative

- Varicose Vein Centers having their own regional meetings twice a year. In person at the Annual AVF meeting and via conference/web every fall.
- Venous Stent Registry development complete to be released mid 2019.

**Governing Council Update:** Ed Garrett, MD and Carrie Bosela

- VQI working closely with the SVS Guidelines committee to use VQI data to support or refute published guidelines. First project was EVAR and OAAA.
  - Huge variations noted for preop stress test and Cell saver for OAAA
  - Huge variations noted for sac diameter for EVAR
Regional Data Review (see slides) Ed Garrett, MD

- **Volume of procedures** – high volume procedures for this region include CEA, PVI and Hemodialysis Access. Total procedure volume for all procedures 15,308 for the region!
- **LTFU: 78% for 2015, dropped to 64% for 2016**
- **D/C Meds:** Currently same as national average of 81%. Huge improvement over the past few years. 2015 region was at 65%.
- **Hemodialysis AVF vs. Graft:** Highest performing center in the country!!!
- **ABI:** Report changed to just claudication patients
  - One outlier not reporting any ABI’s prior to procedure; hope it’s a documentation issue
  - Dr. Ryan self disclosed as highest performing site: it’s just a hard wired policy to do an ABI. Discussed interpretation of symptoms and possible non vascular causes. Stop smoking may be the key treatment for the claudication, not an intervention.
  - Suggestion to add Average ABI to the report (would need to risk adjust)
- **CEA stroke/death:** Observed rate almost 2 times the national average. Two statistically significant centers driving this result for the region. Need to review own center data and work on QI project to improve!

**Business Discussion:**

- **Next Meeting:** (send survey)
  - In conjunction with SAVS in January
  - In conjunction with VAM in June
  - Other suggestions
- **Tonya Turner volunteered to be the new Lead regional data manager**