

**Mid America Vascular Study Group Meeting**  
**April 10, 2017**  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**University of Kansas Health System**  
**Kansas City, KS**

Attendees:

Cynthia Bik, Tracy Campin, Nadine Caputo, Cece Davis, Laura Goubeaux, Kamal Gupta, Ravishankar Hasanadka, Kelli Hayworth, Andrew Hoel, Cheryl Jackson, Reza Masoomi, Amy Mehaffey, Claudia Miller, Ann Powell, Joe Schneider, Thomas Schneider, Tamara Thomas, Tiffany Whitaker, Lorraine Zacarias, Sheila Zani, Clay Quint, Kirk Hance, Karthik Vamanan, Deb Macaulay

**Data Manager Meeting:** Tamara Thomas presented: *PVI and New Data Managers*. She discussed other approaches for data documentation, the challenges of TASC documentation and the additional information that The University of Kansas Health System (TUKH) has developed for their vascular providers and several PVI case studies. More information on the rationale for TASC and background information is needed to encourage physicians to provide this information. TUKH provided a copy of a TASC chart that providers can use for PVI documentation and is kept in their cath labs.

Cheryl Jackson provided a series of questions and case scenarios for group discussion.

**Follow-up on Fall Meeting:** LTFU un-blinding of results

All of the attendees agreed that the LTFU rates can be disclosed by provider. Another email survey will be sent out to obtain results for the Executive Committee of this regional group. Members requested that information on the volume of procedures be included with the un-blinded information.

**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.
- Nadine highlighted the new *member only* website to help members to 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. Wednesday, May 31st is a full day session for physicians, QI personnel and data managers. Many of the topics for 2017 were submitted by members.
- Progress on the blinded datasets was reviewed and new processes implemented for improvement were outlined.

**Group Discussion**

The limitations and disadvantage for small provider groups in the participation awards was discussed. The group was supportive of participation in a quality project as part of the criteria and presenting at a regional meeting as additional criteria. They also suggested multiple tracks and different paths for obtaining awards including participating in research or quality projects. Some of

the physicians indicated that the meaning of the participation awards and distinction between stars was limited.

**Dr. Schneider reviewed data from the Regional Reports.**

- The group discussed missing data and suggested that this may be used as criteria for the participation awards.
- Dr. Schneider reported that the region is doing very well on several key indicators including LTFU and discharge medications. One of the centers reported that they disclosed provider rates on discharge medications and they increased their rates from 93% to 100%. Others noted that IR physicians had lower rates of prescribing; other physicians indicated that providing them with template letters to the PCPs so they could take over the new medications was helpful in their institutions.
- Ultrasound guidance rates was variable in this region. It was noted that hematomas were not the only adverse outcome associated with ultrasound guidance. Others commented that physicians often forget to document its use. Other physicians noted that they had very good results without using ultrasound. This topic could be a potential research or quality improvement project for the region.
- LOS was discussed and several physicians indicated that hypertension was a frequent cause for longer LOS and suggested pre-treatment of hypertension prior to surgery.

**Dr. Schneider** provided an update from the AQC and the Governing Council.

**Dr. Hasanadka** provided the update from the Venous Quality Council.

**Deb Macaulay** outlined information on the PVI cloning feature and highlighted the industry surveillance studies that are enrolling new members.

**Research Advisory Council**

**Dr. Hoel** presented information on how to use VQI data in a local, regional or national study and the application process for using national VQI data. He discussed the availability of Medicare data that can be used with or to supplement VQI data.

**Presentations**

- “Role of a structured cardiac rehabilitation program in patients with PAD post revascularization”  
– Mathew Lippman, DO
- “National readmission rates in patients with critical limb ischemia” – Reza Masoomi, MD

**Next Meeting**

September 6, 2017/ in Chicago – venue to be determined.