Northern California Vascular Study Group Fall Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2019
8:00 AM – 4:00PM
Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge – LK120
Stanford, CA

I. Welcome and Introductions – Matthew Mell, MD
   ➢ Attendees:
      1. Cheryl Jackson
      2. Mathew Mell - UC Davis Health System
      3. Nasim Hedayati - UC Davis Health System
      4. William Yoon - UC Davis Health System
      5. Mimmie Kwong - UC Davis Health System
      6. Steven Maximus - UC Davis Health System
      7. Heather Houston - UC Davis Health System (Remote)
      8. Ritu Karki Sitaula - UC Davis Health System
      9. Ronald Dalman - Stanford
     10. Shipra Arya - Stanford
     11. Jason Lee - Stanford
     12. Monvuel Garcia - Stanford
     13. Shernaz Dossabhoy - Stanford
     14. Aditi Kashikar - Stanford
     15. Elizabeth George - Stanford
     16. Stephanie Manuel - Stanford
     17. Rochelyn Fallorina - Stanford
     18. Carlos Moreno - Stanford
     19. Ed Aboian - Sequoia Hospital
     20. Michelle Cantrell - PAMF
     21. Lily Toy - PAMF
     22. Joyce Nacario - UCSF

II. Agenda
   ➢ Welcome, Introductions, and Breakfast (Cheryl Jackson & Dr. Matthew Mell)
   ➢ VQI Updates (Cheryl Jackson, Dr. Abouian, Dr. Hedayati, & Dr. Arya)
   ➢ Fall 2019 Report Review (Dr. Matthew Mell)
   ➢ Regional Quality Improvement Project: Discharge Medications (Ritu Karki Sitaula)
   ➢ Speaker Presentation (Dr. Jason Lee)
   ➢ 12 minute Article Presentations (Nate Itoga, Lizzy George, Aditi Kashikar, & Shernaz Dossaboy)
   ➢ Endovascular Aneurysm Repair Long Term Follow-up Imaging Practice (Rouchelyn Fallorina)
   ➢ MD’s Adjourn
   ➢ Data Manager’s Meeting (Heather Houston & Ritu Karki Sitaula)
   ➢ DM’s Adjourn

III. National VQI Update: Cheryl Jackson, RN, SVS PSO
   ➢ SVS PSO Staffing Update:
Kristopher Huffman has been hired as the new Director of Analytics
Dan Neal will continue as a part-time employee of the PSO

**Positioned filled for Clinical Operations Associate**

- Caroline Morgan, BSN has been hired as the new Clinical Operations Associate
- Caroline will: assist with data audits, responding to clinical questions and updating and maintaining the registries be the lead interface with regional data managers attend regional and national meetings
- Caroline comes from NCDR, where she was in charge of their ICD, Afib Ablation and PVI registries
- Caroline started on September 30th

**SVS PSO will be hiring an Associate Medical Director**

- An RFA will be issued by the end of August and the position will be filled by March 2020
- Position will report to the PSO’s Medical Director, Dr. Jens Eldrup-Jorgensen
- The initial focus will be to assist the SVS PSO Medical Director and SVS PSO staff, with guidance and oversight its clinical operations.
- There will be a specific emphasis placed on attaining a deep understanding of the construct of the variables in each SVS VQI registry and then assisting with the development and maintenance of the registries and associated reporting and analytics.

**VQI@VAM Highlights:** See slide deck

**Regional VQI Presentations & Posters @VQI@VAM**

- Poster presentation – Stanford – “Endovascular Aneurysm Repair Long Term Follow-up Imaging Practice” by Rouchelyn Fallorina, RN

**Participation Awards: 2019**

- Scoring
- LTFU (40%)
- Regional Meeting attendance (30%)
- QI Project (20%)
- Registry subscriptions (10%)
- Participation Committee is in the process of reviewing criteria for 2020 awards
- 3 Star recipients received certificates at the Spring Regional and National Meeting
- View pictures on your region’s website at www.vqi.org
- For general inquiries about the Participation Awards, please contact Cheryl Jackson at CJACKSON@SVSPSO.ORG or Jim Wadzinski at JWADZINSKI@SVSPSO.ORG.

Submit Project Charters and supporting documentation for presentations and posters to QI@SVSPSO.ORG or cjackson@svspso.org.
Visit the VQI Members Only Website for webinars and presentations on VQI Quality Improvement Projects. www.vqi.org

**2019 Reports:**

- Quarter 1: Spring Regional Reports, QI Update: EVAR LTFU Imaging Update/Risk Calculator, Performance Awards
- Quarter 2: QI Initiative Updates – DC meds and EVAR LTFU imaging Center and System Dashboards
Quarter 3: Fall Regional Reports, QI Initiative Updates – DC meds and EVAR LTFU imaging, Center and System Dashboards
Quarter 4: QI Initiative Updates – DC meds and EVAR LTFU imaging

Registry Updates:
- Hemodialysis Access: In development and will be released in Q3 2019
- Vascular Medicine Registry: Specifications finalized, to be released in Q4 2019
- Varicose Vein: Specifications finalized, to be released in Q4 2019
- Venous Stent Registry: Specifications finalized, to be released in Q4 2019

M2S Updates and Technology Updates
- Implement GUDID integration for PVI balloons and atherectomy (on PVI comprehensive form). Released on 5/22/2019
- Add Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) as an optional patient identifier. Released on 6/5/2019
- Across-registry change on Patient Details page. Released on 6/5/2019
- Allow Follow-up links to display for all procedures even when an exclusion rule is met
- Exclusion rules include:
  ✓ Carotid Artery Stent registry: If all arteries treated are Technical Failure then the procedure is excluded.
  ✓ Endo AAA Repair: If converted to Open, then a follow-up EVAR form is not required.
  ✓ PVI registry: If all arteries treated are Technical Failure or Unable to Treat then the procedure is excluded.
  ✓ Thoracic and Complex EVAR: If the ‘Aortic Device Implanted = No’ then treat the procedure as Technical Failure, or if converted to Open do not require a follow-up on the TEVAR form.
  ✓ Universal: If death is recorded on an index procedure, no follow-up is required for that procedure. This procedure will be excluded.
- PVI Revision - update PVI Closure Device Type Right/Left. Released on 6/26/2019
- Across-registry revision - retire Healthcare Insurance Claims Number (HICN) variable. Released on 7/24/2019
  ✓ HICN field was retired on: Carotid Endarterectomy, Hemodialysis Access, IVC Filter, Infra-inguinal Bypass, Supra-inguinal Bypass, Lower Extremity Amputation, Open AAA Repair
  TEVAR

Other Development Projects to be released in 2019
- Hemodialysis Access registry revision
- TEVAR registry revision for Cook Dissection PAS project
- New Venous Stent registry
- Varicose Vein registry major revision
- New Vascular Medicine registry
- INFRA & SUPRA revisions - groin incision variables

Registry Projects: These projects are conducted within the SVS PSO and only non-identifiable data (removal of patient, center and physician information) will be provided to Medtronic/Bard or the FDA. Only standard of care practice is being evaluated. For
such PSO activities, patient informed consent and Institutional Review Board review are not required. Sites must follow their institutional guidelines.

- **PATHWAYS SUPPORT**
  - 2018 Claims Validation
  - The support team will be notifying sites selected to participate in the 2018 claims validation process in Q3.

- **Upcoming Analytics Webinars**
  - BASIC ANALYTICS - Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 2 p.m. EST
  - ADVANCED ANALYTICS - Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 2 p.m. EST
  - If you wish to register, and have not received a registration link, please contact pathwayssupport@m2s.com.
  - Both webinars will be recorded and posted to the Resources in PATHWAYS along with the associated Q&A.

### IV. Research Advisory Council: Shipra Arya, MD

- Change in RAC Policies
- Policy on RAC Requests Related to Industry Studies
- Policy on Device Identification for approved RAC Requests
- Conflict of Interest Policies Revised based on these new Policies
- All posted on the VQI Web Site

#### National Research Process

- Proposal Submissions

**December 2019**
- Call for Proposals: October 8, 2019
- Due Date: November 18, 2019
- Meeting: December 9, 2019
- Notification Sent: December 10, 2019

**February 2020**
- Call for Proposals: December 10, 2019
- Due Date: January 20, 2020
- Meeting: February 10, 2020
- Notification Sent: February 11, 2020

- No Restriction of data release based on similar projects; collaboration is encouraged
- Only 1 refresh of data within 24 months of initial approval
- Industry related projects need to collaborate with the steering committee/s (i.e. TCAR)
- Review policy and industry charters on the web
- Device Identification Policy: review on the web before submitting proposal
- National Research Process
- Check Approved Project List: [https://www.vqi.org/data-analysis/rac-approved-project-search/](https://www.vqi.org/data-analysis/rac-approved-project-search/)
- To submit a proposal to be considered for the National RAC, please follow the link below: [http://abstracts123.com/svs1/meetinglogin](http://abstracts123.com/svs1/meetinglogin)

### V. Arterial Quality Council: Ed Aboian, MD

- Opioid Workgroup is formed and charged with putting forth recommendations on how the VQI can be used to track, monitor and benchmark opioid utilization
Continued refinement to Global Unique Device Identification Database (GUDID) integration in PVI, with planned expansion to other registries.

Initiating Future Registry Updates
Harmonizing Demographics and Meds across all registries
Updating Infra/Supra Registries
Updating OAAA
Provided Education and Clarification on recording “Other Devices” and IDEs

VI. Venous Quality Council: Nasim Hedayati, MD

- Council and Committee Transition
- Dr. Almeida is in his last year as Chair of VQC
- Succession needed for VV Registry committee chair
- Potential for Formation of a separate RAC for Venous
- Continued Interest from United Healthcare on collaborating on Appropriateness for Ablations. Could eliminate the need for pre-authorizations.

VII. Governing Council: Mathew Mell, MD

- GC meeting at VAM
- Vote on new Executive Committee Member - Dr. Yazan Duwayri, Emory University
- Presentation on Potential New Cost Project – Expanding upon the EVAR Cost Pilot Project
- Need for New RAC Policies
- Revised Data Use Agreements
- Non-VQI members cannot have access to VQI BDSHow to handle center id in Regional Data Sets

VIII. Regional Data Review – Matthew Mell, MD

- Dashboard – See slide deck

IX. Presentations:

- UC Davis – “Regional Quality Improvement Project: Discharge Medications” by Ritu Karki Sitaula, RN
- Main Speaker Presentation (Jason Lee, MD) – Stanford – “Thoracic and Complex EVAR: A wish list for VQI & research”
- Stanford – “Endovascular Aneurysm Repair Long Term Follow-up Imaging Practice” by Rouchelyn Fallorina, RN
- Stanford – “Variation in center-level frailty...AAA” by Lizzy George, MD
- Stanford – “Frailty reduces long-term survival after PA revascularization regardless of approach” by Aditi Kashikar, MD
- Stanford – “Episode-based cost reduction for EVAR” by Nate Itoga, MD
- Stanford – Complex EVAR: Past projects and utilizing VQI for the future” by Shernaz Dossaboy, MD

X. Roundtable/Comments:

- Can the poster session combine or be displayed at VAM. Felt the posters were really well done and think they should get more exposure. Not everyone at VAM sees these posters and this may increase VQI participation. PSO response – Will look into it, but space at VAM may not allow.
➢ If pay for VAM should get discount or free for VQI@VAM. **PSO response** – Not possible since the PSO already operates at a loss for VQI@VAM.

➢ EVAR LTFU Risk Calculator – can those elements run in the background and be used to identify the patient *a priori* for long-term follow-up visit. It would also be nice if an alert comes on the screen to alert the center. Alternatively, the risk scores could be incorporated in the Procedures requiring follow-up tool download as a new field. Cheryl will take to M2S.

➢ Combine EVAR & TEVAR aneurysm diameter guideline?

➢ Would like regional data even if the center level is <10 cases, <3 sites. Would like to see aggregate data so they can compare to other regions and nationally. Cheryl explained that this may not be possible due to loss of identification, but will take back to group. PSO statisticians will revisit this topic.

➢ SVS & VQI question – how can papers get more publicity to the general public? They get published in medical journals and then sit there. **PSO response** – Is there a particular paper that we can take to SVS that has mass appeal?

➢ VQI “lite” for community hospitals. NSQIP has different tiers. Cheryl explained that PVI registry had no (or one) center that uses the “PVI Basic” form.

➢ To address the need to stratify the level of complexity of TEVAR cases, Physicians would like to see the ability to download images since that is a MedStreaming feature. Cheryl asked why the need when you only have access to your own patient, how would images get de-identified, who would download, who would get permission to download?

➢ Can the current reported metrics included in the regional report be made available as a “dashboard” as other registries do, that updates frequently (daily, weekly, monthly) as cases get entered? **Statisticians are looking into this.**

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**XI. Meeting Evaluation:** All present thought this was a great meeting with great turnout. Great discussions and presentations that stimulated clinical practice conversations. Formal eval will be sent out with the minutes.

**XII. Next meeting:** Date and time TBD