SVS
Society for Vascular Surgery

Vascular Quality Initiative®

Newsletter

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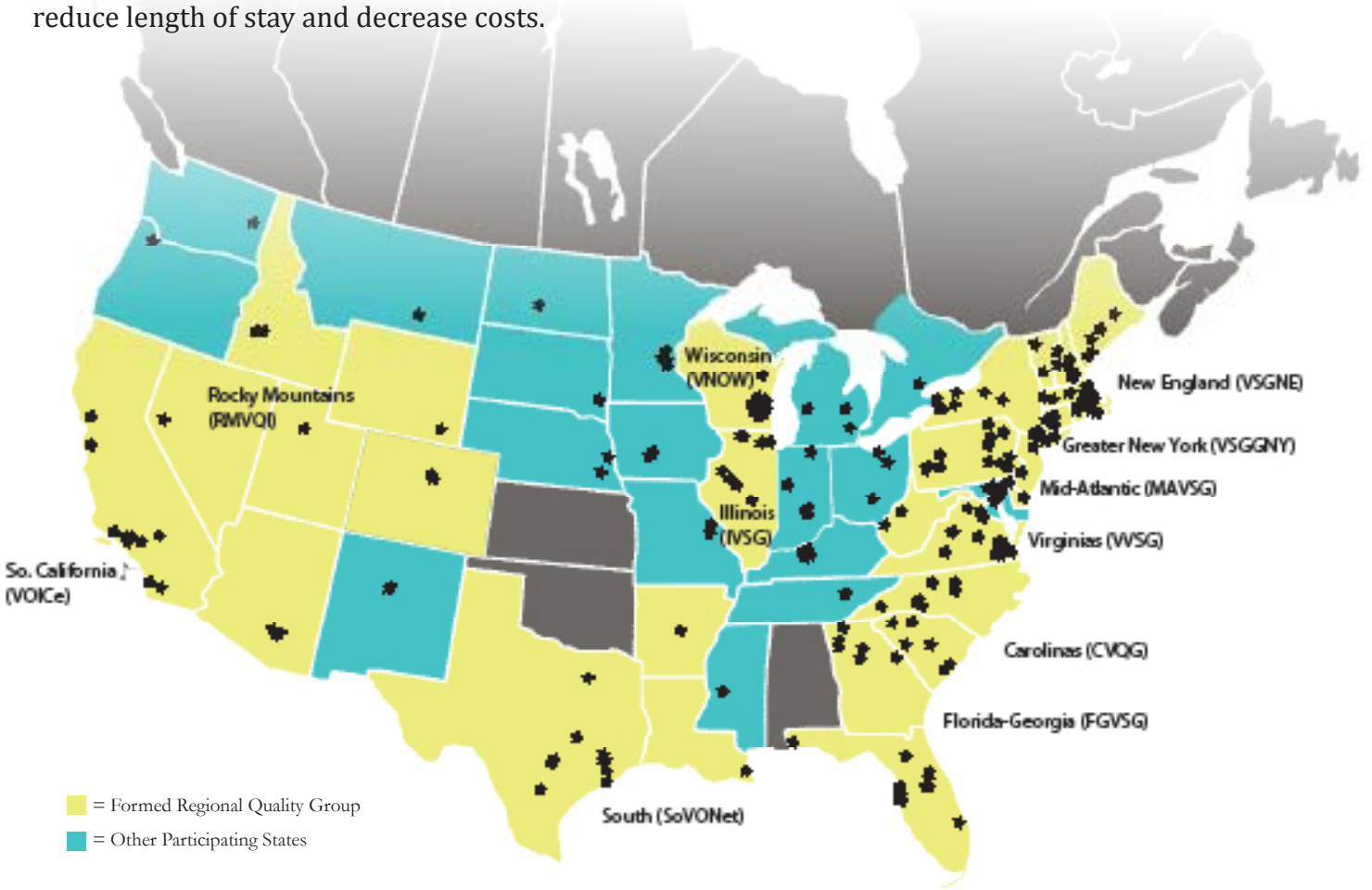
VQI® Surpasses 200 Participating Centers

In October, the SVS VQI reached a new milestone, with over 200 centers participating across the United States and Canada. To date, over 65,000 procedures have been entered into the SVS PSO database by more than 1,200 physicians. Increased participation has also led to the organization of new regional quality groups in Illinois, Wisconsin, and the Mid-Atlantic, raising the total number of SVS PSO accredited regional quality groups to eleven. Several additional regional groups are in the process of formation. To learn more about regional groups in your area, visit www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/regionalgroups.

Procedural data can now be benchmarked not only within a regional group, but between regions. At regional meetings this fall, groups received the first risk-adjusted length of stay reports comparing different regions. These reports provided insight to launch quality initiatives for regions and centers to reduce length of stay and decrease costs.



Additional Regional Groups Forming:

- Upstate New York
- Ohio
- Chesapeake Valley Area
- Indiana
- Michigan
- Missouri
- Northern California
- Mississippi/Tennessee
- Minnesota

SVS PSO Committees Highlights

- The Quality Committee has analyzed in-hospital surgical site infection after infra-inguinal bypass. Significant variation in risk-adjusted rates exists across centers. Independent risk factors for SSI were ABI <0.35, operative time > 220 minutes and transfusion > 3 units. Chlorhexidine skin prep reduced SSI, especially in patients with tissue loss. A scientific manuscript, quality recommendation, and specific suggestions for each participating center are being prepared by the Quality Committee.
- The Quality Committee is in the process of revising the data forms for all procedures. Working groups are comparing other registries and prior user input, with the goal of streamlining data input by optimizing the web-based interface.
- A Research Advisory sub-Committee has been created to evaluate requests for multi-regional de-identified data sets for national research projects. The form and policy for submitting requests can be found on the VQI site www.svsvqi.org.

The new regional benchmarked reports are presented at the Vascular Study Group of New England's 19th Semi-Annual Meeting.

Venous Modules in the VQI

Interest in venous procedures by VQI members has led to discussions between the SVS and the American Venous Forum (AVF) about potential collaboration to create a venous quality initiative within the SVS PSO. This would combine the venous experience of AVF members with the quality improvement infrastructure of the VQI, to benefit both SVS and AVF members who treat venous disease. Details under discussion include a Venous Quality Committee within the SVS PSO, comprised of SVS, AVF, and regional quality group representatives, to develop modules for IVC filter placement, venous thrombolysis, and venous stenting. This group would oversee the aggregation and analysis of data to develop quality improvement projects and best practice recommendations for treating venous disease. The SVS welcomes the participation of the AVF in this initiative to add venous procedures to the VQI.

Vascular Societal Endorsement of the VQI

Many vascular societies have endorsed the VQI (listed below), and join the SVS in encouraging members to join our important initiative. Endorsing societies are recognized on the VQI website and can select a SVS PSO Governing Council member from their region to serve as a representative for their society.

- Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery
- Eastern Vascular Society
- Florida Vascular Society
- New England Society for Vascular Surgery
- New York Society for Vascular Surgery
- Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society
- Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery
- Texas Society for Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Current Regional Group Quality Projects

Regional groups develop independent quality improvement projects. Below are examples of the projects being initiated.

Vascular Study Group of New England

- Reducing length of stay, analysis of system factors that can be improved
- Reducing wound infection rate after infra-inguinal bypass

Florida-Georgia Vascular Study Group

- Improving smoking cessation after surgery across all centers
- Using letters to PCP's to increase statin use

Carolinas Vascular Quality Group

- Improving smoking cessation after surgery across all centers
- Increasing pre- and post-operative statin use

Southern California Vascular Outcomes Improvement Collaborative

- Reducing practice variability in peripheral vascular interventions
- Increasing the use of statins, ACE inhibitors, and antiplatelet Rx pre-operatively

Vascular Study Group of Greater New York

- Reducing Clostridium defile infections after open vascular operations
- Reducing readmission rates for patients treated for tissue loss

Mid-Atlantic Vascular Study Group

- Evaluating anesthesia effects on procedural outcomes
- Evaluating PVI outcomes in diabetic patients on oral agent vs. insulin

Vascular Network of Wisconsin

- Reducing post-Carotid Endarterectomy stroke rates
- Improving follow-up monitoring for EVAR

Updates on the M2S Cloud-Based System for the VQI

- M2S released the Analytics and Reporting Engine in September. This provides custom reporting capabilities by allowing users to select variables of interest and filter their dataset to a desired patient population. Calculated variables, such BMI, are also included. Center data can be compared to all VQI sites for any variable, with additional enhancements, including regional comparisons, available soon.

- M2S is an approved vendor for the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) of CMS. On behalf of VQI members, M2S can collect, audit, and submit PQRS reports for physicians. Starting in 2015, physicians who do not participate in PQRS will be penalized a portion of their Medicare billings, and to avoid the penalty, physicians must participate in the 2013 program.

  M2S will be hosting a webinar to discuss the PQRS program and how the VQI can be used for submissions on Wednesday, November 28 at 1:00pm. Click here to register. Or contact M2S at vqi@m2s.com.

Data Managers Corner

FAQs about Carotid Endarterectomy

Tab: Demographics
Field: Pre-op ACE-Inhibitor/ARB

Q: *For ACEI/ARB - No Medical Reason - Does this reason have to be implicitly stated by the physician, or can general contraindications be accepted? For example, moderate to severe aortic stenosis, progressive renal dysfunction, hyperkalemia, etc. are recognized as contraindications for these drug classes.*

A: Contraindications documented in the patient's medical record are acceptable.

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Tab: Demographics
Field: Pre-op Medications

Q: *Can you define "non compliant" for medications? Is it 2 or more missed doses?*

A: Non-compliant = patient not taking medication as prescribed. This could be that the patient refused, doesn't take regularly, missed a week, etc.

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Tab: Demographics & History
Field: Smoking & Neuro Event

Q: *What would you enter if exact date (mm/dd/yyyy) is not known?*

A: Dates are required fields. If the month and/or day is unknown, please record the month and/or day as 01 and then the actual year.

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Tab: History
Field: ICA/CCA Ratio

Q: *If the duplex imaging report includes both systolic and diastolic ICA/CCA ratios, which should I use to enter in the registry?*

A: Always choose systolic ICA/CCA ratio

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Tab: Procedure
Field: Patch Type

Q: *One surgeon utilizes Bovine Pericardium Patch - what do we choose, Prosthetic or autogenous?*

A: Select Prosthetic. You will then be prompted to choose a Patch Manufacturer and Patch Detail. You will find patch manufacturers that provide bovine patches in the available list with specific patch details. Example: Patch Manufacturer of Synvois with a Patch Detail of Vascu-Guard Pericardial Bovine.

Recognizing Over 200 Centers Commitment to Quality*

Abington Memorial Hospital
Adventist Medical Center
Alamance Regional Medical Center
Alegent Health - Bergan Mercy Medical Center
Allegheny General Hospital
Alle-Kiske Medical Center
Allina Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Allina Mercy Hospital
Allina United Hospital
Allina Unity Hospital
Augusta Health
Augusta Vascular Center
Aurora BayCare Medical Center
Aurora Lakelan Medical Center
Aurora Medical Center Manitowoc
Aurora Medical Center, Grafton
Aurora Medical Center, Hartford
Aurora Medical Center, Kenosha
Aurora Medical Center, Oshkosh
Aurora Medical Center, Summit
Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington
Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center
Aurora Sinai Medical Center
Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center
Aurora St. Luke's South Shore
Aurora West Allis Medical Center
Bassett Healthcare
Baystate Medical Center
Beebe Medical Center
Berkshire Medical Center
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Boston Medical Center
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Cardiothoracic Surgical Associates
Carilion Medical Center
Carondelet Heart & Vascular Institute
Carroll Hospital Center
Carson Tahoe Regional Healthcare
Catholic Health Kenmore Mercy Hospital
Catholic Health Mercy Hospital of Buffalo
Catholic Health Sister of Charity Hospital
Catholic Health Sister of Charity Hospital, St. Joseph Campus
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Central DuPage Hospital
Central Maine Medical Center
Centura-Porter Adventist Hospital
Charleston Area Medical Center
Charlton Memorial Hospital - Southcoast Hospital Group
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
Christiana Care Health Services
Christus St. John Hospital
CJW Medical Center
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Coastal Vascular & Interventional
Concord Hospital
Cooper University Hospital
Cottage Hospital
Danbury Hospital
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Dr. P. Phillips Hospital
Eastern Maine Medical Center
Elliot Health System
Emory University Hospital
Fairfield Medical Center
Fletcher Allen Health Center
Florida Hospital
Floyd Medical Center
Forbes Regional Hospital
Forsyth Medical Center
Fox Valley Surgical Associates
Georgetown University Hospital
Geisinger Medical Center
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center
Greenville Hospital System
Hamilton Medical Center
Hartford Hospital
Henry Ford Hospital
Hill Country Memorial Hospital
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Indiana University Health - Arnett Hospital
Indiana University Health - Goshen Hospital
Indiana University Health - Methodist Hospital
Iowa Heart Center at Mercy Medical Center
Iowa Methodist Medical Center
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Lakes Region General Hospital
Loma Linda University Medical Center
Maine Medical Center
MaineGeneral Medical Center
Mary Washington Hospital
Maryland Vascular Specialists
Massachusetts General Hospital
Mease Countryside Hospital
Medcenter One
Medical University of South Carolina Hospital
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System
Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital
Mercy Hospital
Mercy Medical Center
Michigan Vascular Center
Miriam Hospital
Mission St. Joseph's Hospital
Montefiore Medical Center
Morton Plant Hospital
Morton Plant North Bay Hospital
Nebraska Heart Hospital
New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
Northside Hospital
Northwestern Memorial Hospital
Norton Audubon Hospital
Norton Brownsboro Hospital
Norton Hospital
Norton Suburban Hospital
NYU Medical Center
Ochsner Clinic
Orlando Regional Medical Center
OSF St. Anthony Medical Center
OSF St. Francis Medical Center
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
OSF St. Mary Medical Center
Overlook Hospital
Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Peripheral Vascular Associates
Premier Surgical Associates
Presbyterian Hospital (NC)
Presbyterian Hospital (NM)
Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville
Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center
Providence Tarzana Medical Center
Reading Hospital
Redmond Regional Medical Center
Redwood Regional Medical Group
Regional Medical Centers of Orangeburg
Rhode Island Hospital
Robert Packer Hospital - Guthrie Clinic
Rockford Memorial Hospital
Roper St. Francis
Rutland Regional Medical Center
Saint Anne's Hospital
Saint Francis Hospital
Saint Luke's Episcopal-Presbyterian Hospital
Sanford Vascular Associates
Sanger Heart and Vascular
Scott & White Hospital
Self Regional Healthcare
Sentara Careplex Hospital
Sentara Leigh Hospital
Sentara Norfolk General Hospital
Sentara Obici Hospital
Sentara Princess Anne Hospital
Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital
Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Hospital
Sharp Grossmont Hospital
South Seminole Hospital
Spartanburg Regional
Spectrum Health Hospitals
St. Alphonsus Hospital
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center
St. Joseph's Health Center
St. Luke's Hospital
St. Luke's Hospital - Southcoast Hospital Group
St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
St. Mary's Hospital - Arizona
St. Mary's Hospital - Decatur
St. Mary's Medical Center
St. Vincent Healthcare
St. Vincent's Heart Center of Indiana
St. Vincents Hospital
Stafford Hospital
Stanford Hospitals & Clinics
Stony Brook University Medical Center
SUNY Upstate University Hospital
Tampa General Hospital
The Heart Hospital - Baylor Plano
The Methodist Hospital System, Houston
The Vein and Vascular Institute
Toronto General Hospital
Tufts Medical Center
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio
UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center
UCSD Medical Center
UMass Memorial Medical Center
University of Arizona Medical Center
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
University of Colorado Health Services
University of Florida - Shands
University of Maryland Medical Center
University of Mississippi Medical Center
University of North Carolina
University of Rochester Medical Center
University of Tennessee Medical Center Knoxville
University of Texas Medical Branch
University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics
University of Virginia Health System
USC University Hospital
Washington Hospital Center
West Penn Hospital
William D. Suval, M.D., Inc.
Winchester Medical Center
Winthrop-University Hospital
Yale-New Haven Hospital

*As of 11/1/2012

www.vascularqualityinitiative.org