



Vascular Quality Initiative®

Newsletter

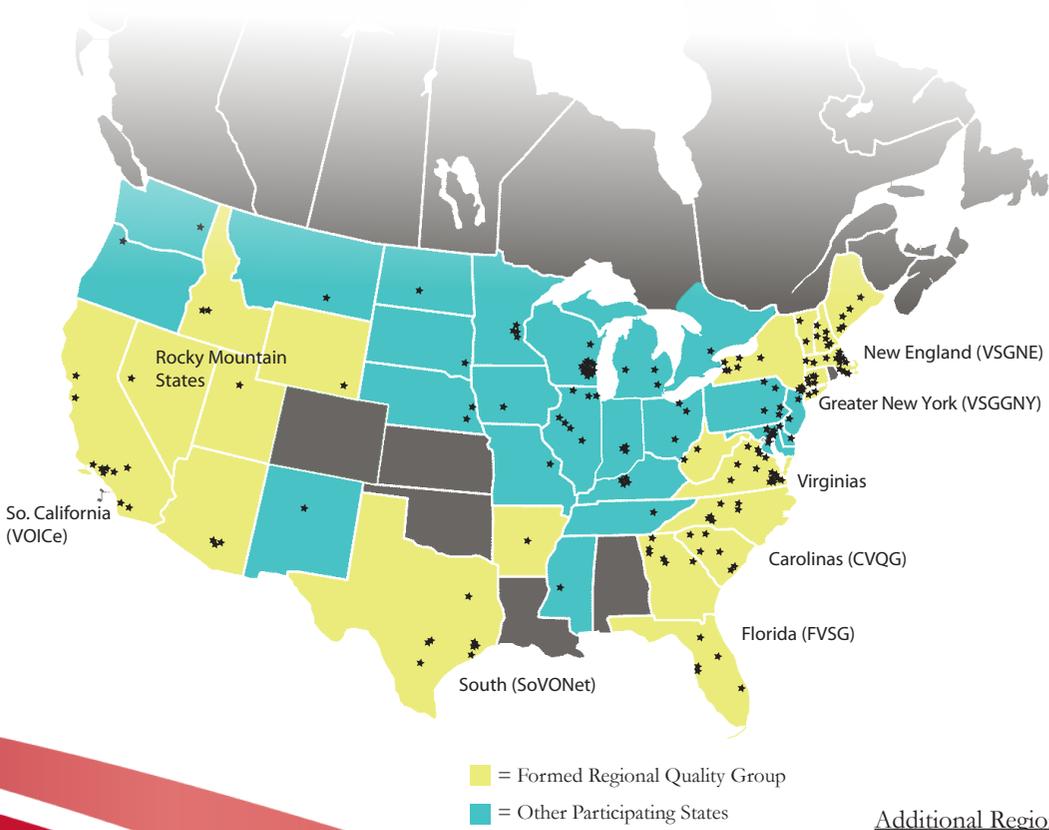
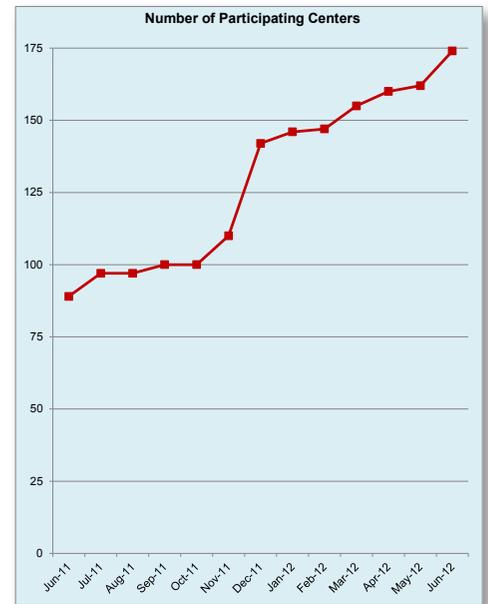
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Vol. 3 July 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE SVS PRESIDENT

As incoming President, I would like to congratulate the nearly 1,000 physicians and more than 175 centers participating in the SVS VQI® for their commitment to quality improvement. This initiative now contains data on more than 50,000 vascular procedures, which provides a strong base for quality improvement projects and an opportunity to answer questions that require a robust clinical registry. The VQI is organized around regional quality groups, which coordinate quality improvement efforts and provide a vehicle to translate registry data into practice change, with local ownership. I would encourage all SVS members to join the VQI and establish or join a regional quality group. This initiative positions SVS as a leader in vascular quality improvement, and provides a real opportunity for our members to benchmark and improve outcomes.

- Peter Gloviczki, MD



Additional Regional Groups Forming:

- Upstate New York
- Keystone/Mid-Atlantic
- Illinois
- Chesapeake Valley Area
- Indiana
- Michigan

UPDATES ON THE M2S CLOUD-BASED SYSTEM FOR THE VQI

- ▶ A **new ad-hoc reporting tool** is set to be released this summer, which will allow users to select variables of interest for specific analyses, including benchmarks with other VQI participants. This reporting tool is currently available for demonstration purposes and M2S will be holding an **informational webinar** for all users on Wednesday, July 18 and Thursday, July 19. For further details visit www.m2s.com/webinar.
- ▶ M2S added **new measures to its PQRS** (Physician Quality Reporting System) data reporting option. These new measures are vascular-specific, providing greater ease of collection and more likelihood of meeting the requirements for PQRS reporting. Currently, VQI members can report on 2012 PQRS data to receive a bonus payment of 0.5% of all Medicare billings for successful reporting. Starting in 2015, however, physicians who do not participate in PQRS will be penalized a portion of their Medicare billings. To avoid this penalty, physicians must participate in the 2013 PQRS program. For more information on this service available through M2S, visit www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/pqrs.
- ▶ M2S now offers an **automated data import service** for VQI members. This service enables regularly scheduled data imports of General and Demographic information from a center's EMR/clinical system directly into the VQI database, saving time and limiting redundant data entry. For more information, contact Timothy Stone at M2S at tstone@m2s.com.

The top screenshot shows the 'Analytics & Reporting Engine' interface. It includes a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Define Report', 'View My Results', and 'Raw Data'. The 'Report Name' is 'My New Tabular Report' and the 'Procedure Type' is 'Carotid Artery Stent'. Below this is a 'Select Variables' section with a search bar showing '2 selected' and buttons for 'Check all' and 'Uncheck all'. Two variables, 'General' and 'Demographics', are listed with checkboxes and radio buttons.

The bottom screenshot shows the 'Filter' section with a search bar and a table of filters. The first filter is 'Diabetes == (is equal to) None' and the second is 'Gender == Male'. Below the filters is a 'Summary Fields Selected' table:

Variable Name	Tab	Computation
Gender	General	
Weight (lbs)	General	
Smoking	Demographics	
Creatinine (mg/dl)	Demographics	
Urgency	Procedure	

Screenshots from the new ad-hoc reporting tool to be released this summer into the VQI database.

UPDATES FROM SVS PSO ACCREDITED REGIONAL QUALITY GROUPS

South - Dr. Mark Davies

The Southern Vascular Outcomes Network (SoVONet) held a regional group meeting in March. They reviewed group bylaws as well as elected representatives for the executive committee. The group also discussed prospective regional research collaborations. Their next meeting will be November 2 in San Antonio, TX. (Information: Yvette Whittier at YWhittier@tmhs.org).

Carolinas - Dr. Jeb Hallett

The Carolinas Vascular Quality Group held its second regional group meeting in May. The group discussed current quality improvement projects, including smoking cessation, pre- and post-operative statin usage, and reducing blood transfusion. The next regional meeting will be held November 2 in Charleston, SC. (Information: Lori Bennett at Lorri.Bennett@RoperSaintFrancis.com).

New England - Dr. Jens Jorgensen

The Vascular Study Group of New England now has over 200 physicians and 30 hospitals participating. VSGNE held its 18th semi-annual meeting in May, where a new Quality Committee was created. The group discussed multiple quality improvement efforts including wound infection following infra-inguinal bypass. Analysis of recent data that showed chlorhexidine skin preparation reduced surgical site infection in these patients led to a best practice recommendation. There were also presentations on data analysis including impact of infra-inguinal bypass vein cuffs, selection of patients for AAA repair, impact of gender on AAA repair outcome and LEB functional outcome, and impact of statins on survival after LEB. At the SVS VAM, there were nine presentations based on VSGNE regional data. Their next meeting is October 25 at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center from 10am-4pm. (Information: vsgne@m2s.com or visit www.vsgne.org).

Florida-Georgia - Dr. Adam Beck and Dr. Yazan Duwayri

The Florida and Georgia groups have joined and are now the Florida-Georgia Vascular Study Group. The group will hold its second regional meeting in Gainesville, FL at Shands Hospital on October 25 from 10am to 4pm. All interested practitioners, their support staff, and administrators are welcome to attend. (Information: Jerri Morris at jerri.morris@surgery.ufl.edu or visit www.vascularweb.org/fvsg).

Southern California - Dr. Fred Weaver

SoCal VOICE held a regional meeting during the Southern California Vascular Surgical Society Annual Meeting in May. The group discussed best workflow practices for data entry, and reviewed current regional group outcomes to identify future quality

NEW VQI WEBSITE

A new website was released in May 2012 – www.vascularqualityinitiative.org and provides a centralized location for information pertaining to current and prospective participants of the VQI. Key features of the website include:

- ▷ Overview of the benefits of participation, regional quality groups, the SVS Patient Safety Organization, and M2S's cloud-based system
- ▷ Information on current regional quality groups, as well as how to join or form a regional group
- ▷ Listing of current participating centers and physicians
- ▷ Key resources, including whitepapers, newsletters, regional group meeting documents, and procedure forms
- ▷ Online tools, such as the cardiac risk predictor which calculates the likelihood of post-operative myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, or arrhythmia after major vascular procedures
- ▷ Methods to organize data entry for the VQI data forms
- ▷ FAQs on the contracting process for joining the VQI
- ▷ Recent news and upcoming events

View slides from the VQI sessions held during the Vascular Annual Meeting® on the VQI website -
www.vascularqualityinitiative.org/VAMslides

improvement projects. They are working on a regional project to optimize use of beta blockers, aspirin, ACE inhibitors, and statins in vascular patients by communicating with patients and their primary care physicians. The next meeting is October 26 at the Rancho Bernardo Inn. (Information: Karen Woo at Karen.Woo@med.usc.edu or visit www.vascularweb.org/regionalgroups/VOICE).

Rocky Mountains - Dr. Larry Kraiss

The Rocky Mountains Vascular Study Group held its initial regional group meeting in May, in which they elected representatives to the SVS PSO, established bylaws, and a semi-annual meeting schedule. The next regional meeting will be during the Rocky Mountain Vascular Society Annual Meeting on July 27 in Park City, UT. (Information: Larry Kraiss at Larry.Kraiss@hsc.utah.edu or Jeff Gilbertson at jjon@slhs.org).

Virginias - Dr. Gilbert Upchurch

The Virginias Vascular Study Group held its second meeting during the Vascular Annual Meeting in June, where they reviewed benchmarked regional data compared to all VQI participants, developed bylaws, and elected representatives to the SVS PSO. Their next meeting will be held October 14 at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV. (Information: Mary Baldwin at mb2b@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu).

Greater New York - Dr. Evan Lipsitz and Dr. Darren Schneider

The Vascular Study Group of Greater New York also held a regional group meeting during the Vascular Annual Meeting in June. At this meeting plans for several possible regional quality improvement projects were discussed, including evaluation of a new risk assessment tool for patients undergoing lower extremity bypass, tracking post-procedure length of stay and readmissions, and determining the impact of c. difficile colitis on outcomes after vascular procedures. The group plans to host their next meeting during the VEITHsymposium in November. (Information: Olympia Christoforatos at Olympia.Christoforatos@stonybrookmedicine.edu).

DATA MANAGERS CORNER

FAQs About Validation

Q: *I have submitted the required professional claims data for validation but haven't yet received any feedback data. When might I receive a feedback file?*

A: We are compiling validation feedback files on a first in, first out basis. We expect all feedback files, for centers that have completed their submission of professional claims data, to be distributed by end of summer.

Q: *Once I receive a validation feedback file, how long do I have to analyze, make necessary updates to the registry, and return the file to M2S?*

A: You have one month to complete your analysis, make required registry updates, and return the edited file to M2S.

Q: *Why do I have multiple rows for the same patient with the same date of service in the feedback file?*

A: A physician may bill for numerous CPT codes for a patient that had a single OR visit. For example, a single VQI Supra-inguinal procedure may have left and right side components, which are billed as separate CPT codes. Or a single VQI PVI procedure may be billed as multiple CPT codes associated with multiple arteries treated.

Q: *What should I do if there are rows in the feedback file that are found to be associated with cases that were excluded from the VQI?*

A: We have tried to limit the number of excluded cases that are in your feedback file by eliminating claims data based upon associated claims modifiers. However, if you find a row in the feedback file is associated with a case that was appropriately excluded from the registry, please select "Procedure Excluded from VQI" from the dropdown menu in the response column of the feedback file.

UPDATES FROM ORGANIZING REGIONAL QUALITY GROUPS

Chesapeake Valley Area - Dr. Anton Sidawy

A meeting of interested surgeons was held during the Vascular Annual Meeting. The goal is to organize this regional group around the Chesapeake Vascular Society. Contact Carrie Bosela at c.bosela@svspsso.org if you are interested in participating in this newly forming group.

Keystone/Mid-Atlantic Area - Dr. Grace Wang and Dr. Amy Reed

During the Vascular Annual Meeting, the Keystone Vascular Study Group held an organizational meeting. They discussed bylaws, as well as representatives to the SVS PSO and regional committees. The group envisions a geographical region of Pennsylvania and possibly Delaware, and is planning a fall meeting. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Dr. Amy Reed at areed3@hmc.psu.edu.

Upstate New York - Dr. Paul Anain and Dr. Linda Harris

An organizational meeting was held in May. The group elected national and regional leadership roles. They plan to hold their next meeting in Rochester, NY in November; date and details for this meeting are to be determined. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Christine Juliano at KCJ9928@chsbuffalo.org.

Indiana - Dr. Gary Lemmon and Dr. Michael Dalsing

An organizational meeting was held in June in Indianapolis, IN. There were 18 hospitals represented and they discussed the benefits of forming a regional group. For more information on joining this group, contact Lisa Herald at LHarreld@iuhealth.org.

VQI COMMITTEES

Governing Council

Richard Cambria, MD, Chair
Anton Sidawy, MD, Vice Chair
Afshin Michael Molkara, MD, SVS Member
Louis Nguyen, MD, SVS Member
Michael Stoner, MD, SVS Member
Jack Cronenwett, MD, Ex Officio
Rebecca Maron, SVS Staff Liaison
Carrie Bosela, PSO Administrative Director

Jens Jorgensen, MD
Jeb Hallett, MD
Fred Weaver, MD
Adam Beck, MD
Mark Davies, MD
Gilbert Upchurch, MD
Evan Lipsitz, MD
Scott Berman, MD

New England Region
Carolinas Region
Southern California Region
Florida Region
South Region
Virginias Region
Greater New York Region
Rocky Mountains Region

Quality Committee

Larry Kraiss, MD, Chair
Philip Goodney, MD, SVS Member
Jack Cronenwett, MD, Ex Officio
Carrie Bosela, PSO Administrative Director
Karen Homa, PSO Quality Director
Mark Schermerhorn MD

Andres Schanzer, MD
Jeb Hallett, MD
Karen Woo, MD
Adam Beck, MD
Mark Davies, MD
Gilbert Upchurch, MD
Darren Schneider, MD
Magdiel Trinidad, MD

*For a demonstration of the database and to join the VQI, contact M2S at vqi@m2s.com or (603) 298-5509
For questions about the SVS PSO and regional group formation, contact Carrie Bosela at c.bosela@svspsso.org*

www.vascularqualityinitiative.org