



October 19, 2010
Issue 3

Recruitment Update: 102 Hospitals Have Joined FSCI!

As of today, 102 hospitals have joined FSCI. The collaborative is the largest statewide surgical quality improvement effort in the country.

Check us out on YouTube

To see FSCI's informational video, click [here](#).

Contact

To join FSCI or if you have questions, contact:

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In this issue:

- [What's Ahead for FSCI](#)
- [Building a Quality Improvement Team](#)
- [Role of the Surgical Clinical Reviewer](#)
- [FSCI Webinar Attended by 134](#)

What's Ahead for FSCI?

Over the coming months, watch for more updates as we approach the launch of FSCI! Below is a calendar of upcoming key dates:

Week of October 18: FSCI enrollment forms distributed to FSCI hospitals.

October 29: Enrollment forms due to ACS.

Early November: FSCI contracts distributed by ACS.

Late November: Contracts due to ACS and FHA.

3rd & 4th Week of January: FSCI training begins (Please note that sign up information will be shared with hospitals as soon as it is available)

Early February 2011: Kick-off meeting – location and date TBD

February 1: FSCI participants begin collecting data sampled from all cases with an operation date of Jan. 1, 2011 and after

[TOP](#)

Building a Quality Improvement Team

Improving quality of care in your hospital takes a team effort. According to a 2007 Commonwealth Fund analysis of hospitals that have seen significant quality improvement, building a quality improvement team and empowering nurses and other staff to improve care are important first steps in not only improving quality, but also sustaining that improvement over time. Multidisciplinary teams are able to identify causes of problems, develop a clear plan to address those problems, and hold each other and other staff members accountable for implementing changes that will improve care and save lives.

In FSCI hospitals, the Surgeon Champion and Surgical Clinical Reviewer (SCR) play two key roles on the surgical quality improvement team. Surgeons are at the heart of the Florida Surgical Care Initiative – the collaborative was developed by surgeons with the interests of surgical teams in mind.

The Surgeon Champion spearheads implementation of FSCI at your hospital, and is responsible for leading the FSCI team, understanding FSCI definitions and methodology, working closely with the SCR to ensure data collection is accurate and valid and leading efforts to review FSCI reports and implement best practices.

Working with the Surgeon Champion, the SCR is the key day-to-day person ensuring high-quality, clinical, 30-day outcomes data is collected. The SCR position for FSCI participating hospitals is approximately a half-time position, and all SCRs receive webinar-based training and ongoing education opportunities and conference calls. SCRs are responsible for identifying cases to be collected, collecting data, and working with the Surgeon Champion and quality improvement team to review reports and implement best practices. In addition, SCRs should attend Morbidity & Mortality conferences and regularly communicate with surgical teams.

While the Surgeon Champion and SCR are central to the FSCI program, it is important to engage the surgical team and other supporting roles in the FSCI program:

- Chief of Anesthesia, Quality Management Coordinator, Infection Control staff, and Chief of Nursing Service, who can provide valuable insights in identifying causes of quality issues and improving patient care
- OR Nurse Manager, who can help the SCR access the OR log, and support quality improvement efforts that result from the program
- Supervisor/Director of Medical Records, who is crucial for supporting data collection efforts
- Surgical Service Administrator, who can help connect the SCR with providers for collection of 30-day outcomes data
- IT support staff, who may assist SCRs with any local technical issues, should they occur, and can help set up data automation

To support your hospital's surgical quality improvement team, FSCI will provide regular collaborative meetings and conference calls. All FSCI hospitals will have access to ACS resources, including Best Practices case studies and guidelines relevant to all four FSCI measures. Additionally, an important part of the FSCI collaborative is the opportunity to learn from those with excellent outcomes; FSCI hospitals will have the chance to hear from others during collaborative meetings, and visit with other quality improvement teams.

Working together as a hospital team, and as a collaborative, will help your hospital translate the data and feedback provided through FSCI into sustained

quality improvement for your patients.

Source:

1. Silow-Carroll, Sharon. Hospital Quality Improvement: Strategies and Lessons From U.S. Hospitals. The Commonwealth Fund. April 2007.

[TOP](#)

Role of the Surgical Clinical Reviewer

A key member of the FSCI team is the Surgical Clinical Reviewer (SCR). The FSCI SCR is approximately a half-time position. For more information, a SCR job description is available [here](#). If you have questions as you're hiring or selecting your SCR, please contact Martha DeCastro, martha@fha.org, or Whitney Watson, wwatson@facs.org.

[TOP](#)

FSCI Webinar Attended by 134

Thank you to all who participated in the FSCI webinar, "A Closer Look at FSCI – Florida Surgical Care Initiative" on Sept. 21. The webinar, hosted by Clifford Ko, MD, FACS, ACS NSQIP director and Karen Richards, ACS NSQIP administrative director, included 134 FSCI participants from around the state, and offered a chance to ask questions.

As discussed on the call, a list of FSCI case inclusions and CPT codes is available [here](#).

Please contact us if you have additional questions. To view the presentation click [here](#) and to listen to the webinar, please click [here](#).

[TOP](#)