



**February 14, 2011**  
**Issue 7**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Mar. 4, 2011:** FSCI contracts due to ACS to be enrolled in March SCR training

**Mar. 4 – 6, 2011:** ACS Florida Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting

**March 10:** First FSCI collaborative call (Calls will occur monthly the second Thursday of the month)

**March 28- April 1:** SCR online training

### **Contact**

To join FSCI or if you have questions, contact:

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## Reminder: FSCI Enrollment Forms and Contracts Must Be Returned by Mar. 4

Remember to turn in your FSCI enrollment form and contract to the American College of Surgeons, attention Whitney Watson, via mail, fax or email listed below as soon as possible. Once enrollment forms are turned in, hospitals will receive FSCI contracts. Currently, 23 hospitals have completed all FSCI documents.

**Hospitals must return FSCI enrollment forms and contracts by March 4 to be enrolled in March SCR training.** Those who do not have their contracts into ACS will not be able to participate in

training, and training could be delayed until a new cohort of participants is ready to train, so it is essential all forms are completed on time.

More information about FSCI training will be distributed to hospitals that have completed their FSCI contracts soon. Please watch your email for details.

Please contact Whitney or Martha DeCastro, [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org), with any questions as you're filling out your forms.

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## FSCI Kicks Off with Statewide Meeting in Orlando

More than 200 people gathered in Orlando Feb. 3 for the Florida Surgical Care Initiative Statewide Kick-Off Event, sponsored by BlueCross Blue Shield of Florida. Participants heard from national and local surgical and quality leaders about the value of the FSCI method for quality improvement, which is based on the 20-year history of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP), and how the program will place Florida's hospitals on the leading edge of national quality efforts.

"We formed FSCI to set a national example for quality care, and show the nation and policymakers that here in Florida, we deliver high value care," said Bruce Rueben, president of the Florida Hospital Association. "FSCI is the tool that can help us do that. FSCI will help prevent complications, save lives, improve care and reduce costs. That's how we define value."

FSCI's four measures – SSI, UTI, colectomy and elderly surgery outcomes – were developed by ACS in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as possible national outcome measures. Two of the measures were recently endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF).

"Through FSCI, Florida's hospitals will have a valuable head start on working to improve in these key areas, before these measures are publicly reported and tied to reimbursement," Rueben told participants.

"FSCI is not just about making sure we've completed all the required processes. It's about reviewing the care we're providing, learning from those results, and making care better for our patients on an ongoing basis," said Clifford Ko, MD, FACS, director of the ACS Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care. "Our hospitals will benefit, our surgical teams will benefit, and most importantly, our patients will benefit."

Throughout the day, speakers highlighted FSCI goals, how data is collected and reported, and how the collaborative will work together to improve care throughout the state.

“We have the opportunity to lead in our state and in our nation to improve surgical care for our patients,” said Dr. Joseph Tepas, MD, FACS, ACS Board of Governors member and Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville. “We need to make the commitment to do better.”

“We need the best data, and then we need to put that data into action,” said Bruce Spurlock, MD, CEO of Convergence Health Consulting and a national expert on collaborative quality improvement. “The FSCI collaborative will allow you to share tools and best practices, learn new implementation strategies and network with others around the state. You don’t have to reinvent the wheel if someone already has a QI strategy that’s successful.”

In the coming months, Dr. Spurlock will continue to work with FSCI by leading the initial FSCI monthly collaborative calls.

Participants also heard from local ACS NSQIP participant Jillian Knight, surgical clinical reviewer at Baptist Hospital of Miami. The hospital has used its ACS NSQIP data to reduce general and vascular surgical site infections from 4.42% to 1.77%, and has achieved “exemplary” results on 17 ACS NSQIP measures. It has also achieved \$4 million in savings annually since 2007 and its mortality rate is in the ACS NSQIP 90th percentile, resulting in hundreds of lives saved. Five hospitals in the Baptist Health South Florida system participate in the full ACS NSQIP and the sixth system hospital will join FSCI.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions and panel discussion allowed Surgeon Champions, Surgical Clinical Reviewers, quality improvement leaders and other leaders to learn more about the program, ask questions and begin networking with fellow participants around the state. Participants heard from Jennifer Ritz, RN, quality manager and former surgical clinical reviewer from Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., and from Dr. John Morton, MD, FACS, surgeon at Stanford University School of Medicine and national chair of the ACS NSQIP surgeon champions group.

The meeting marked the start of collaborative-wide activities. Following the meeting, collaborative conference calls will occur monthly. Please mark your calendars to participate in collaborative events beginning in March.

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## FSCI Kick-Off Slides Available Online

Thank you to those who participated in the FSCI Kick-Off Event on Feb. 3. Nearly 200 participants attended the event, sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of Florida.

To view the following presentations from the event, please contact Martha DeCastro, [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org), for a link and password.

We look forward to working with you as a collaborative!

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## FSCI Seminar at ACS Florida Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting

Surgeons, mark your calendars for the ACS Florida Chapter's Annual Scientific Meeting **March 4 – 6 at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando**. A session on the Florida Surgical Care Initiative on Saturday, March 5 from 2 – 4 p.m. entitled, "Florida Surgical Care Initiative – What Users Must Know," will provide additional background on FSCI and update surgeons on program implementation. It will be an opportunity for FSCI surgeon champions to discuss with colleagues thoughts and experiences from their respective institutions, and hear more about statewide and national policy implications of FSCI, the nation's largest statewide surgical quality improvement program.

For more information on the meeting, please click [here](#).

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## Mark Your Calendar: First FSCI Conference Call March 10

The first FSCI collaborative conference call will take place Thursday, March 10 from Noon – 1 p.m. You do not need to register to participate in calls, and your entire FSCI team is encouraged to participate.

Subsequent calls will take place every second Thursday of the month from Noon – 1 p.m. Please contact Martha DeCastro, [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org), for the phone number and participant code.

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## Reminder: FSCI Communications Toolkit available on FSCI website

As you implement FSCI in your hospitals, several templates are available to help you communicate about the program both internally and externally. To access the tools, please contact Martha DeCastro, [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org), for a link and password.

Items found in this toolkit include:

- FSCI toolkit introduction letter
- FSCI communications guide
- FSCI presentation template (PowerPoint)
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
- Press release templates:
  - Announcement of participation in FSCI
  - News regarding Surgical Clinical Reviewer (SCR) or Surgeon Champion
- FSCI newsletter article
- Hospital website copy
- Participation FSCI logo

- FSCI web banners

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## 23 Hospitals Complete FSCI Enrollment and Contract Process

Thank you to the following hospitals and systems that have completed their FSCI enrollment forms and contracts and are officially FSCI founding participants!

Bayfront Medical Center  
Cape Canaveral Hospital  
Fawcett Memorial Hospital  
Flagler Hospital  
Florida Hospital Waterman  
Holmes Regional Medical Center  
Mayo Clinic  
Mease Countryside Hospital  
Memorial Hospital Miramar  
Memorial Hospital West  
Memorial Regional Hospital  
Memorial Regional Hospital South  
Mount Sinai Medical Center  
NCH Downtown Naples Hospital  
NCH North Naples Hospital  
North Broward Medical Center  
Palm Bay Hospital  
St. Luke's Hospital  
Sarasota Memorial Health Care System  
St. Vincent's Medical Center  
Tallahassee Memorial Hospital  
University of Miami Hospital  
University of Miami Hospital & Clinics

The above list is updated as of Feb. 10. Should you have any questions about your enrollment form or contract, please contact Martha DeCastro at [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org) or Whitney Watson at [wwatson@facs.org](mailto:wwatson@facs.org). Please remember hospitals must complete both an enrollment form and contract to begin FSCI training and data collection.

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