



## November 11, 2010 Issue 4

### Upcoming Events

#### **November 2010:**

FSCI contracts distributed.

ACS NSQIP Pediatric enrollment information distributed.

#### **January 2011:** FSCI training.

Watch for more details soon on training dates and sign up information.

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

**Feb. 3, 2011:** Statewide FSCI kickoff meeting. Details to be announced soon.

### Contact

To join FSCI or if you have questions, contact:

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To subscribe to this newsletter, contact:

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## Reminder: FSCI Enrollment Forms Due to ACS

Remember to turn in your FSCI enrollment form to the American College of Surgeons, attention Whitney Watson, via mail, fax or email listed below. Once enrollment forms are turned in, hospitals will receive FSCI contracts in November. Please contact Whitney or Martha DeCastro, [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org), with any questions as you're filling out your form.

American College of Surgeons  
Attn: Whitney Watson, ACS NSQIP  
633 North Saint Clair Street 22N  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Email: [wwatson@facs.org](mailto:wwatson@facs.org)  
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## ACS NSQIP Pediatric Enrollment Opens in November

Enrollment in the ACS NSQIP Pediatric pilot will open later this month. Florida hospitals that have previously expressed interest will receive more information and enrollment materials from the American College of Surgeons. Any new hospitals interested in joining can contact Charles Fisher, ACS

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## Save the Date: FSCI Kickoff Feb. 3!

Mark your calendars to join us for the statewide **FSCI Kickoff Event on February 3, 2011!** All FSCI participating hospitals (including those participating in ACS NSQIP Pediatric or one of the full ACS NSQIP Options) are invited to attend the day-long kickoff at the Hyatt Orlando International Airport Hotel, featuring guest speakers on the value of collaboratives, advice for new Surgeon Champions and SCRs, and a preview of what you can expect as a member of the FSCI collaborative. Please watch for official invitations with more details. Thank you to BlueCross and BlueShield of Florida for supporting the FSCI Kickoff Event.

Please also save the date for the **2011 ACS NSQIP National Meeting**. ACS NSQIP, on which the FSCI program is based, holds a national meeting annually for all participating hospitals, and FSCI members also are encouraged to participate. The event offers an opportunity to network with hospitals and collaboratives from around the country who are working on similar quality improvement goals, learn about surgical quality topics, and hear tips and advice from fellow Surgeon Champions and SCRs from around the country. The 2011 meeting will be held July 24-26, 2011 at the Westin Copley Place in Boston. More information is available at [www.acsnsqip.org](http://www.acsnsqip.org).

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## Florida Hospitals Working Together: The Value of Collaboratives

A key component of the Florida Surgical Care Initiative (FSCI) is the opportunity for Florida's hospitals to work together across the state to improve care. Through the FSCI collaborative, hospitals will come together in a positive, confidential and non-competitive environment to discuss best practices and quality improvement initiatives, review reports and compare outcomes, and work together to improve care for patients across the state.

Throughout the ACS NSQIP program, on which FSCI is based, there currently are about 20 collaborative groups working together or in development, including regional collaboratives or initiatives focused on specific procedures or goals.

Collaboratives have been an important format for quality improvement for more than 20 years. Some of the earliest well-documented collaboratives in the United States were formed in the late 1980s, including the Northern New England Cardiovascular Disease Study Group, which was formed in 1986, and the Vermont Oxford Network formed in 1988.<sup>1</sup> In the 1990s, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) developed the Breakthrough Series, which established many of the best practices for quality improvement collaboratives.<sup>2</sup> In addition to surgery, collaboratives have been established to address pain, diabetes care, HIV care, asthma, heart failure, infections, and many other health care issues.

Working together, collaborative participants have the opportunity to accelerate quality improvement. A 2008 review of seven randomized controlled trials of quality improvement collaboratives published in the *British Medical Journal* found an overall positive effect of the collaborative on quality

improvement. The researchers also found 53 of 60 uncontrolled studies in recent years showed improvements in patient care and organizational performance when hospitals participate in a collaborative.<sup>3</sup> Several of the uncontrolled studies reported significant quality improvements among participating hospitals ranging from 30 to 80 percent.

While additional research is needed, studies suggest sharing of best practices among hospitals and teams, and working together on common goals, can help drive greater improvement than hospitals might see by working on quality issues on their own. Because of this, health care quality improvement collaboratives have grown in attention in recent years.

Hospitals participating in the FSCI collaborative will benefit from regular conference calls and webinars, in-person meetings and networking events, and opportunities to get to know other quality leaders you can reach out to for ideas. Watch for more information about the FSCI collaborative kick off in February 2011.

Thanks to the generous support of BlueCross and BlueShield of Florida for supporting the kickoff event.

**Sources:**

1. Schouten LM, Hulscher ME, van Everdingen JJ, Huijsman R, Grol RP. Evidence for the impact of quality improvement collaboratives: systematic review. *BMJ*. 2008 Jun 28; 336(7659):1448-9.
2. The Breakthrough Series: IHI's Collaborative Model for Achieving Breakthrough Improvement. Institute for Healthcare Improvement. 2003.
3. Schouten LM.

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## FSCI: Four Measures Update

The four measures of the FSCI program – SSI, UTI, elderly surgery outcomes and colorectal outcomes – are in the final stages of National Quality Forum (NQF) review. Once endorsed by the NQF, the measures will begin the approval process with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), where they could be implemented as national quality measures as early as January 2012.

Florida's hospitals participating in FSCI will have a valuable head start on collecting the data for these measures and working to improve outcomes in these key areas that may soon be tied to reimbursement.

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## Assigning a Surgeon Champion and Surgical Clinical Reviewer

If you have not yet assigned a Surgeon Champion or are still looking to hire or assign a Surgical Clinical Reviewer, we are happy to provide advice or answer questions about these roles. For more information, please contact Martha DeCastro, [Martha@fha.org](mailto:Martha@fha.org) or Whitney Watson, [wwatson@facs.org](mailto:wwatson@facs.org).

The SCR job description is available for download [here](#).

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