



The Upstate New York Surgical Quality Initiative (UNYSQI) is dedicated to improving the quality of surgical care in our communities. Together, with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, we are launching an Opiate Reduction Project, a preventative approach to combatting the opioid epidemic.

Surgeons have traditionally prescribed opiates based on training or local expectations. It has been found that prescription practice patterns, even for the same surgical procedure, vary widely. Research funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health found that the number of pills prescribed may be the most important factor in how many opioid pills the patient will take – outweighing their pain scores, the intensity of their operation and personal factors. Addressing opioid prescribing during the acute care period, among those patients not using opioids, has the greatest potential to reduce the number of new chronic opioid users and minimize unintended distribution of prescription opioids into communities.

We have created guidelines to assist our area surgeons in opiate prescribing in the post-operative period for 22 surgical procedures. These guidelines were created by the Surgeon Champions from our 18 hospitals across Upstate New York after reviewing best practices in this area as well as baseline prescribing practices. These guidelines will serve as a reference to help reduce any unwarranted practice variation recognizing that there are times that clinical judgement will supersede the general recommendations. We will be measuring the effects of guideline implementation throughout the upcoming year to look for reductions in the number of pills prescribed.

Procedure	UNYSQI Project Target
Total Knee Replacement	50
Lumbar laminectomy	30
Total Hip Replacement	30
Cervical arthroplasty, discectomy and/or fusion	25
Lumbar microdiscectomy	20
Rotator Cuff Repair	25
Panniculectomy	25
Total Abdominal Hysterectomy	15
Breast reduction	15
Laparoscopic cholecystectomy	10
Laparoscopic Vaginal Hysterectomies	15

Procedure	UNYSQI Project Target
Inguinal hernia repair	15
Laparoscopic nephrectomy	15
Laparoscopic gastric bypass	10
Laparoscopic gastric sleeve	10
Carotid endarterectomy	10
Mitral valve replacement	20
VNUS closure	10
TURBT	5
Endoscopic sinus surgery	15
CABG	15
Tonsillectomy	30



We are pleased to let you know the following hospitals are committed to quality surgical care and will be participating in the Opiate Reduction Project beginning July 1, 2019.

Participating UNYSQI Facilities

- A.O. Fox
- Bassett
- Buffalo General Hospital
- Clifton Springs Hospital
- Erie County Medical Center
- Highland Hospital
- Newark Wayne
- Oswego
- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Rochester General Hospital
- Samaritan Medical Center
- St. Elizabeth Medical Center
- St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center
- Strong Memorial Hospital
- SUNY Upstate Hospitals
- United Health Services Hospitals
- United Memorial Medical Center
- Unity Hospital

Please contact project leadership any time:

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Additional Project Resources can be found here:

Michigan Open Project Video:
<http://michigan-open.org/changing-opioid-prescribing-in-surgery/>

Michigan Open Project Article on Seniors and Opioids
https://www.healthyingpoll.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/NPHA-Opioids-Report_072518_0.pdf

ACS Strong for Surgery Toolkit
<https://www.facs.org/quality-programs/strong-for-surgery>

CDC Prescribing Guidelines
<http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>



"Advancing the Safety of Acute Pain Management: Report of Expert Pain Convened by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement."

**You will need to register to receive the document if you are not already an IHI member.*

http://www.ihl.org/resources/Pages/Publications/Advancing-the-Safety-of-Acute-Pain-Management.aspx?utm_campaign=tw&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=70613666&hsenc=p2ANqtz-QesCM_3XL27qlxi6kMAe5rQV_NqHYlipuHAXTxz7CnfZvq1CX832TNiagr79_NKLhJBI-r-pXt6b2eA855DyGbyABIQ&hsmi=70613666