The Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

SCAI President's Page

SCAI Launches Quality Improvement Toolkit (SCAI-QIT)

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For several decades, SCAI has been the leader among cardiovascular professional societies in promoting quality outcomes in catheterization laboratories. The Cath Lab Survey Committee is, and has been, a very powerful tool applied very selectively to relatively few sites. My goal is to promote a much broader, grassroots approach to improving quality in catheterization laboratories across the country. The Quality Improvement Committee worked behind the scenes to develop and launch the SCAI Quality Improvement Toolkit (SCAI-QIT) at the Annual Scientific Sessions in Baltimore this May.

As I approached my Presidential year, I chose to focus on the ability of this ''grassroots'' approach to develop, implement and measure the impact of the SCAI-QIT. Our goal is to recruit a cadre of ''Quality Champions'': SCAI members who volunteer to champion quality improvement in their local hospitals. With the assistance and support of the Quality Improvement Committee, these local SCAI member-volunteers will be the ''tip of the spear.'' They will enable their local cardiac catheterization laboratories to implement specific quality improvement programs. SCAI will provide them with practical tools and resources (e.g., slidesets, handouts, checklists) to bolster quality improvement for their catheterization laboratories.

Our overall goal is to demonstrate a measurable impact on the national Quality of Care in the catheterization laboratories that participate in the SCAI-QIT program. Initially, we will focus on ''process improvement''—for example, greater frequency of biomarker surveillance following PCI, or institution of a monthly peer review conference. Subsequently, our focus will evolve to impact clinical outcomes, which directly reflect the quality of the invasive and interventional practice of cardiology.

We have talked for a number of years about the need for interventionalists to ''own'' the quality improvement process in the catheterization laboratory. If physicians stand on the sidelines and do not actively participate in their local quality programs, then we are inviting government bureaucrats to fill this void.

Clinicians know best how to care for patients, and clinicians understand how best to achieve and ensure the good outcomes their patients expect. SCAI's Quality Improvement Toolkit offers a unique opportunity for SCAI members to demonstrate their commitment to improving quality of care and to reassure our patients that their expectations of receiving the highest quality of care in the catheterization laboratory are being met.

It's time for you to get involved. It's time for you to get to work. We can't wait for ''somebody else'' to do this for us. It's time to stop talking and start doing something about your local hospital's catheterization laboratory quality programs. Become an SCAI Quality Champion. It's not too late. Check out the website, www.SCAI.org/QIT and download the free toolkit.

SCAI will continue to support you and all of the local Quality Champions with webinars and other support services to ensure your success. One year from now, we will have measured the successful implementation of quality programs across the nation. We need you to help SCAI demonstrate how successful we were in driving a quality program. Sign up today at www.SCAI.org/QIT.

Your feedback and ideas would be appreciated. Please e-mail them to president@scai.org.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT