



MAINE CHAPTER AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

November 5, 2008

Physician Name
HOSPITAL
ADDRESS1
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President

G Tom Marshall MD FACS
PO Box 613
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778- 6579

Invitation to participate in development of a statewide NSQIP pilot

Dear Name,

Secretary-Treasurer

Joel D Lafleur MD FACS
Suite 205
4 Glen Cove Dr
Rockport, ME 04856
207-593-5723

We are writing to inform you about an exciting opportunity to improve surgical care across the state of Maine. The Maine Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) with support from the Aligning Forces for Quality initiative and the Pathways to Excellence program, is encouraging hospitals to participate in the development of a statewide pilot of the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP).

District Governor

Charles T McHugh MD FACS
71 Broadway St
PO Box 699
Baileyville, ME 04694
207-427-3344

NSQIP is the first nationally validated, risk-adjusted, outcomes-based program to measure and improve the quality of surgical care. The program uses a prospective, peer-controlled, validated database to quantify 30-day risk-adjusted surgical outcomes, which allows valid comparison of outcomes among all hospitals in the program. Participating hospitals are provided with tools, reports, analysis, and support needed to make informed decisions about improving quality of care. More information on the NSQIP program can be found at www.acpnsqip.org.

Three Maine hospitals currently participate in the NSQIP program (CMMC, EMMC, MMC), and have reported significant value in terms of improved surgical quality of care, decreased length of stay, and/or decreased complication rates. The experience of these three hospitals led the Maine Chapter of the ACS to explore the possibility of promoting statewide implementation of the NSQIP program for all interested hospitals. The Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q), a statewide program led by *Quality Counts* and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to make dramatic improvements in care, has also expressed an interest in helping to support a statewide pilot of the NSQIP program.

We recognize that costs for implementing the standard NSQIP program can be a barrier for many hospitals, and we are committed to exploring ways to subsidize costs to make the program accessible to any interested hospital. We are in discussion with the American College of Surgeons to explore ways that the program could be tailored to meet the needs of small and mid-sized hospitals. We also are exploring options for potential grant funding to help support a statewide pilot.

At this point, we are trying to assess initial interest from hospitals around the state in participating in a statewide NSQIP pilot. Please respond by completing the attached form, or by contacting one of the contacts listed on the form.

Best regards,

G Tom Marshall MD FACS
President, Maine Chapter ACS

**Maine Chapter American College of Surgeons
Aligning Forces for Quality
Pathways to Excellence**

**Statewide Pilot of the National Surgical Quality Improvement
(NSQIP) Program**

Name: _____

Hospital: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate your interest in a statewide NSQIP Pilot:

- Our hospital is already planning to participate in NSQIP
- We are interested in participating in NSQIP, pending the identification of resources to help subsidize the costs of a statewide pilot
- Not sure
- Definitely not interested

If you are interested in learning more or would like to talk with someone about this potential program, please contact any of the following:

- **Maine Chapter ACS**
 - G Tom Marshall MD tel. 778.6579 gtmarshall@fchn.org
 - Joel Lafleur MD tel. 593.5723 jlafleur@penbayhealthcare.org
 - Brad Cushing MD tel. 662.2934 cushib@mmc.org
 - Felix Hernandez MD tel. 973.5293 fhernandez@emh.org
 - Larry Hopperstead MD tel. 795.5767 hopp@cmhc.org

- **Aligning Forces for Quality / Pathways to Excellence**
 - Ted Rooney tel. 729.4929 trooney@healthandwork.com
 - Lisa Letourneau MD MPH tel. 415.4043 Letourneau.lisa@gmail.com

Return form to:
Fax: 593-5333