



Enhanced Recovery Protocols for Colorectal Surgery

Why Colorectal Surgery?



Location

Colorectal surgical procedures are commonly performed in the majority of Wisconsin's acute care hospitals and are associated with high complication rates and resource utilization.



Evidence-based guidelines have impact

Enhanced recovery protocols are evidence-based, clinical pathways with proven efficacy for decreasing length of stay, complications, and costs.



Ensure equal access to high-quality surgical care

Despite clear benefits, enhanced recovery protocols are challenging to implement because they span all aspects of perioperative care, require investment from a multidisciplinary team, and challenge conventional surgical practice.

The Problem

- Colorectal surgical procedures are commonly performed, resource intensive, and have postoperative complication rates as high as 26 percent.
- Enhanced recovery protocols are proven to reduce postoperative length of stay (LOS) by up to 2–3 days, decrease complications such as SSI, UTI, and VTE, improve patient satisfaction, and decrease costs.
- Enhanced recovery protocols span the preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative periods and can be tailored to individual hospital needs. Specific elements include:
 - Preoperative patient teaching and setting expectations
 - Multimodal analgesia to decrease opioid use
 - Carbohydrate loading, decreased fasting, and minimized IVF
 - Avoidance of NG tubes and drains
 - Early ambulation
 - SSI, UTI, and VTE prevention
- Successful implementation of enhanced recovery protocols requires multidisciplinary teamwork, investment of time and resources, and changes to conventional surgical practice.

How can SCW help increase adoption of enhanced recovery protocols?

- Provide benchmarked performance reports at hospital and surgeon levels using existing administrative data for LOS, readmission, and use of opioids for patients undergoing colorectal surgery.
- Distribute resources to guide implementation, such as sample enhanced recovery protocols, patient education materials, clinical practice guidelines, and evidence reviews.
- Provide a platform for both in-person and virtual collaborative learning.
- Provide guidance on automated data abstraction from the EMR to guide quality improvement efforts.

Interested in participating?

- We welcome participation by surgeons, nurses, quality improvement specialists, and others involved in the care of patients undergoing colorectal surgery.
- To receive a benchmarked performance report, a Participating Hospital/Facility Agreement must be signed.
- For more information, please contact us: info@scwisconsin.org or (608) 263-3381