



Pediatric Surgical Care

Why Pediatric Surgical Care?



Location

Many surgical procedures on Wisconsin children are performed in community hospitals by general surgeons, with umbilical hernia and appendectomy being the most commonly performed.



Evidence-based guidelines have impact

There is evidence that best practices for performing these procedures in pediatric populations are not consistently followed in Wisconsin.



Ensure equal access to high-quality surgical care

Collaborative learning will provide general surgeons with access to pediatric surgery specialists from Wisconsin's children's hospitals, creating a forum for discussion of best practices and technical tips and tricks.

The Problem

- In Wisconsin, pediatric umbilical hernias are often performed at younger ages than evidence-based best practices recommend, and earlier on average than in other states.
- When pediatric appendicitis is diagnosed and treated using techniques developed for adults, children may be subject to unnecessary radiation and open surgical procedures.
- Many common pediatric surgical procedures require little or no opioid pain medication when evidence-based pain management strategies are successfully deployed. However, Wisconsin children receive high rates of postoperative opioid prescriptions.

How can SCW help?

- Work with pediatric surgeons from Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and American Family Children's Hospital to communicate changes in national practice guidelines and best practices.
- Provide pediatric specialist support for general surgeons who perform common surgical procedures on children.
- Offer teleconferences to engage surgeons in collaborative learning opportunities focused on current guidelines and best practices. Suggested new topics and guidance from SCW members are welcome at any time. Initial topics will include:
 - **Umbilical Hernia Repair:** We will discuss timing of repair, surgical techniques including contraindications to using mesh, and appropriate postoperative opioid prescribing.
 - **Appendicitis:** We will discuss the utilization of ultrasound as the primary modality for diagnosis, use of perioperative antibiotics and appropriate postoperative opioid prescribing, and surgical techniques to maximize the success of laparoscopic approaches while reducing costs.

Interested in participating?

- We welcome participation by surgeons, nurses, quality improvement specialists, and others involved in the surgical care of children.
- 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