



## Partnering with Rural Providers to Develop a Sustainable Infrastructure to Measure and Improve Colonoscopy Quality

### The Opportunity

- Despite the critical role of colonoscopy in reducing the burden of colorectal cancer, people living in rural areas have reduced access in their local communities due to provider shortages.
- Colonoscopy is a cornerstone of many rural surgical practices, representing the second most commonly performed procedure and an estimated 40% of a rural general surgeon's practice.
- Rural hospitals in Wisconsin report currently operating at ~80% capacity for colonoscopy procedures, with maximum capacity defined as the number of procedures a hospital can perform without additional resources.
- SCW's Rural Task Force, which is made up of general surgeons practicing in rural Wisconsin, identified colonoscopy as a high priority target for quality improvement for the following reasons:

- Hospitals often do not have measurement capabilities in place to continually assess and monitor the quality of colonoscopy procedures.
- Current continuing education and training opportunities often require travel, which is a significant barrier to participation.

## How can the Surgical Collaborative of Wisconsin help?

- Develop a learning management system platform that promotes remote collaborative learning and interaction between colonoscopy providers around the state:
  - Access to webinar sessions and up to date best practices and guidelines, with topics prioritized by participating surgeons.
  - Opportunities for interactive problem solving and brainstorming between providers for challenging cases.
- Offer targeted in-person opportunities for hands on training, including exposure to new technology and techniques through vendor exhibits and interactive presentations and workshops.
- Provide guidance on data collection for three AHRQ-endorsed electronic medical record-based colonoscopy quality measures (adenoma detection rate, withdrawal time, and cecal intubation rate) that minimizes the need for manual data abstraction.

## SCW Partners:

- SCW is engaging the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) and the Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ) to ensure the success of this initiative.
- RWHC is a rural health advocacy organization that has existing relationships with hospital administrators in rural hospitals throughout Wisconsin.
- WCHQ has extensive informatics expertise for developing electronic medical record-based quality measures and will be working with SCW to develop guidance for measuring colonoscopy quality across EMR platform types.

### Interested in participating?

- We welcome participation by surgeons and other providers who perform colonoscopy procedures in rural settings.
- To fully participate in SCW, a [Participating Hospital/Facility Agreement](#) must be signed.

For more information, please contact us: [info@scwisconsin.org](mailto:info@scwisconsin.org)