



SURGICAL CARE AND OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
A PROGRAM OF THE FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH CARE QUALITY

The SCOAP Box

“Sharing Progress – Driving Excellence”

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The SCOAP Community Speaks Up

[What do we lose with prolonged LOS? \(click to read full article\)](#)

As surgeons, we know there are many reasons our patients stay in the hospital, and we each have our own sense of when a patient is cleared for discharge. This varies considerably based on training and prior experience as well as confidence that the patient can get back to the hospital should there be a problem. Some of us insist that there be evidence of full gastrointestinal function or that a high risk window for a complication (such as an anastomotic leak) be passed.

SCOAP is the future of surgical quality improvement. It is a physician-led, voluntary collaborative creating an aviation-like surveillance and response system for surgical quality. SCOAP’s goal is to improve quality by reducing variation in process of care and outcomes at every hospital in the region.

****CALLING ALL WASHINGTON STATE SURGEONS!****

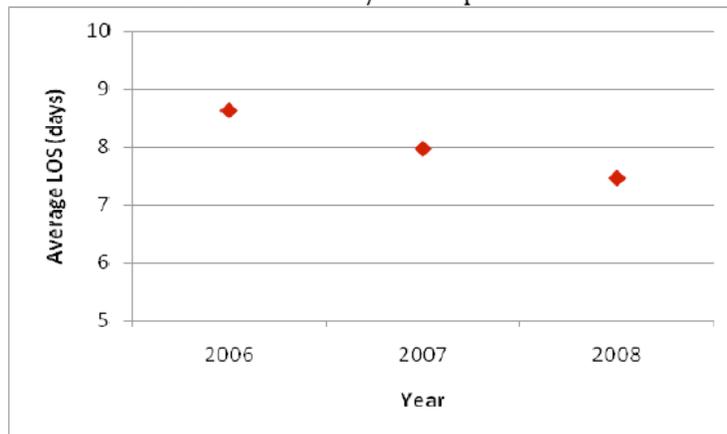
The SCOAP annual meeting is being held on June 13th at Campbell’s Resort in Lake Chelan. SCOAP is only valuable if it has the voice of surgeons from all over the state. We need you and your QI team to be represented. Travel funds are available to support expenses for QI staff. This is your opportunity to be heard, find out more, help chart the future direction of the program, meet your colleagues, and make sure you “own” the future of surgical quality improvement.

Please contact Rosa Johnson at (206) 682-2811 x 20 or rjohnson@qualityhealth.org to RSVP or for more information.

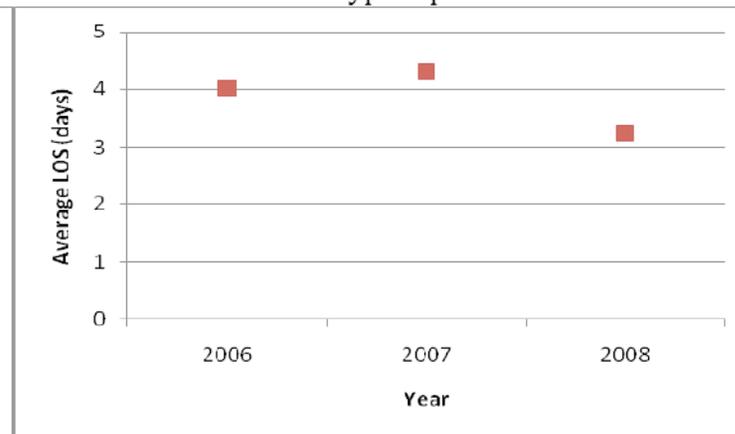
SCOAP Making a Difference

SCOAP surgeons have been very successful at reducing LOS. Over 3 years, LOS has come down over 1 day at SCOAP hospitals.

Elective colon/rectal procedures



Gastric bypass procedures



Patients may have complications or suspicion for complications that require additional care, family and social support may not be ready to receive the patient at home, and/or they may have difficulty leaving the hospital because of transportation issues (e.g., distance from hospital). For some patients, insurance status is a co-factor in whether recuperating patients go home with healthcare system support, get transferred to an intermediate care facility, or stay in the hospital for a longer period of time.

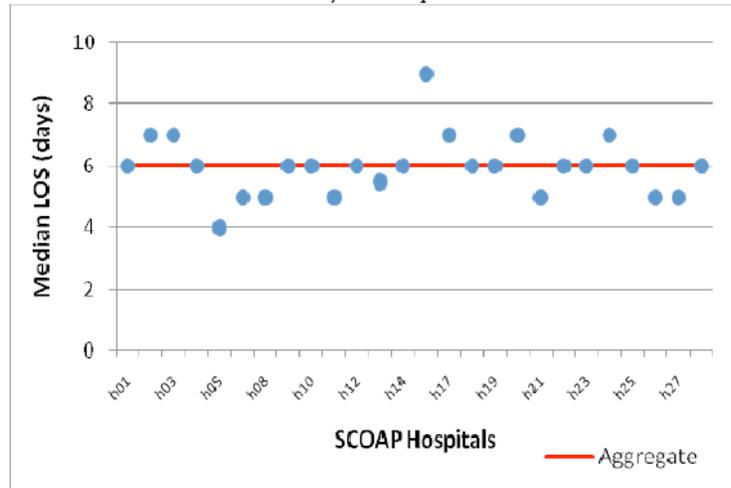
Given this list of reasons that some patients stay longer in hospital, what can the SCOAP community do with length of stay (LOS) data? First, we can all recognize how we compare and benchmark off of one another. There is significant variation in LOS across SCOAP hospitals for elective colon and bariatric surgery, with some hospitals having unusually long LOS – did surgeons at these hospitals know this before SCOAP? Probably not, and it's hard to address things that you don't measure. Second, SCOAP hospitals have been effectively driving down LOS: first year SCOAP hospitals have a ½ day shorter LOS for colon resections than more recently joining SCOAP hospitals.

To see the rest of this answer, [click here](#).

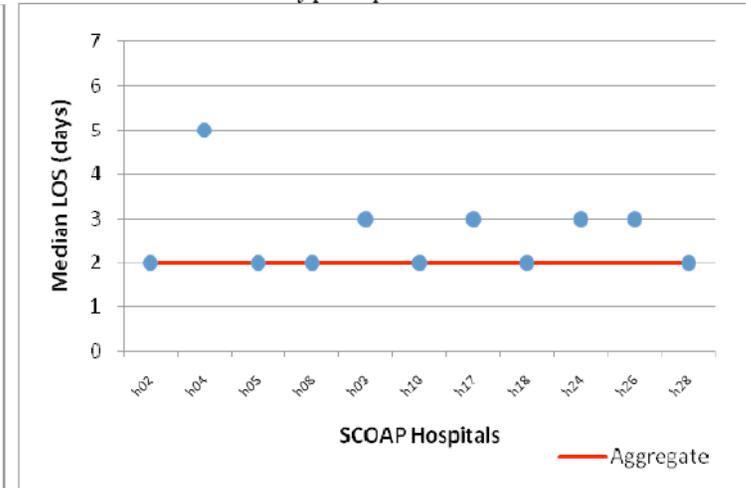
Visit the [SCOAP website](#) for answers to other questions raised

There is still tremendous variability between hospitals and a lot of work ahead for some hospitals that have longer LOS.

Elective colon/rectal procedures



Gastric bypass procedures



For more on length of stay, please see The SCOAP Community Speaks Up column to the left. To learn which hospital is yours in the slides above, or to ask questions about your data report, please contact Rosa Johnson at (206) 682-2811 x 20 or rjohnson@qualityhealth.org.

SURGEONS: FULFILL YOUR MOC PART 4 REQUIREMENTS!

Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements are now a reality! You must complete MOC Part 4 every three years, and SCOAP can help you meet those requirements simply and quickly. SCOAP MOC gets your surgeon-specific, risk-adjusted SCOAP performance data, gives you credit for the time you've committed to SCOAP, and points you to evidence that helps you improve the care you deliver.

Join hundreds of surgeons from across Washington State and sign up to complete MOC Part 4 through SCOAP today!

**Register
now**

by members of the SCOAP community on topics such as negative lymph nodes, blood glucose, negative appendectomy, and CT/US use.

Contact Us

<http://www.scoap.org>

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Assessment Program

SCOAP in Practice: Skagit Valley Hospital

We recently heard from Morrie Johnson, a surgeon at Skagit Valley Hospital:

SCOAP has been an invaluable tool at Skagit Valley Hospital for helping guide our surgical quality improvement efforts. Prior to SCOAP we had no practical and timely data on which to base definitive system changes. SCIP data showed Skagit Valley hospital as being in the bottom fourth in Washington State according to their survey but gave no direction as to how and where to improve. SCOAP data highlights exactly which process of care metrics are affecting outcomes and therefore gives clear direction as to how to make the necessary system changes. Further, the data is tracked and delivered in a timely fashion so that changes can be implemented quickly and with maximum impact.

Thanks to SCOAP, Skagit Valley is now in the top fourth of all hospitals in Washington State according to the SCIP Survey!



Morrie Johnson, MD
Skagit Valley
Hospital

SCOAP Marches Across Washington State

49TH HOSPITAL JOINS SCOAP!

SCOAP is proud to welcome its 49th member, Skyline Hospital, in White Salmon, WA. Skyline is a 32-bed critical access hospital, serving western Klickitat and eastern Skamania Counties. Skyline Hospital joins 48 other hospitals from across the State of Washington in this clinician-led, voluntary collaborative that links hospitals across the state to increase the use of best practices in surgical care. SCOAP's goal is to provide the kind of surveillance of procedures and response to negative outcomes that exists in the world of aviation. Now in its third year, SCOAP's membership represents over 80% of the general surgical care in Washington State. To see a list of SCOAP and non-SCOAP hospitals or to learn more about SCOAP, [visit the SCOAP website](#).

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