



# SCOAP

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



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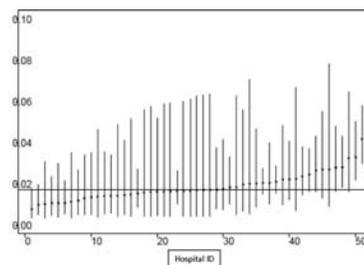
## SCOAP Community Speaks Up: Spine SCOAP

**Surgeons at Virginia Mason have asked, "How can we get involved in the new SCOAP registry for spine surgery currently being developed?"**

The surgical treatment of the human spine can be challenging in diagnosis, surgical decision-making, and technical execution. While there is *general* agreement among spine surgeons on appropriate care pathways, substantial variation exists in the rates of surgery, delivery and costs of care, and outcomes. Individual hospital sites often struggle with meeting the best practices involved in caring for this population, largely because they have limited tracking of performance or pathways to improve care delivery.

## SCOAP Making a Difference: Spine Surgery

Research from our state shows disturbing variation in the safety and quality of spine surgery (click the figure to the right). The Washington State orthopedic spine and neurosurgery communities have come



together to address this variability by creating Spine SCOAP, the nation's first multidisciplinary statewide surveillance and benchmarking program. Spine SCOAP launched July 1 at 10 hospitals. For more information, see the [SCOAP Community Speaks Up](#) article to the right.

## 4th Annual SCOAP Retreat Recap

On June 17, 2011, 85+ SCOAP surgeons, data abstractors, quality improvement professionals, and SCOAP staff members came together at Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan from over 54 hospitals and clinics across Washington State for the Fourth Annual SCOAP Statewide Retreat. Featured topics included surgical nutrition optimization programs, glycemic control issues, reducing urinary catheter-associated morbidity, rectal cancer and diverticulitis care, and surgical checklists, in addition to the SCOAP Year in Review by SCOAP Medical Director Dr. David Flum. To view an agenda for the day or presentation slides, see the SCOAP website [Retreats](#) page.

## About Us

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Follow us on 

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

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