Quality Improvement Projects: Where to start

Leslie Wacker, BS
University of Michigan, C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital
Ann Arbor, MI
Why do we have QI projects?

• To measure our performance
• To ensure appropriate care/timing of care
• To develop new or improved guidelines
• To disseminate information
  • Clinical education
  • Best practices
  • Collaborative tools and resources
This is why the STS databases exist!
How do you pick a “good” QI project?

• Is this relatable to all staff?
• Is my information accurate and/or evidence based?
• Is this feasible?
• How many of our patients are represented in these data?
Using the STS Feedback Summary

• Mortality & Length of Stay
• Table 18, by benchmark procedure
• Table 19, by STAT category

• Compare to STS Overall vs Sites with n>10
Using 3rd Party Survey requirements

• US News & World Reports

• Table 21, VSD repairs requiring permanent pacemaker
• Table 24, TOF repair requiring unplanned cardiac reoperation
• Table 27, ASO for TGA, IVS requiring Mechanical Circulatory Support

• Compare to STS benchmark %
Using local data sources

- Based on observation
- Intra operative
  - Multiple bypass runs
  - Unplanned delayed sternal closures
- Post operative
  - ECMO
  - Reintubation rate
  - Reintervention rate
- Compare to self
Using other registry data

• Be mindful of varying definitions

• Infection rates
• Length of intubation
• NEC
• Unplanned interventional catheterizations
• Low cardiac output syndrome
• ICU length of stay
All part of “planning”

• Understand the problem
• Know the facts
• Establish a baseline
• Identify the root cause of the problem
Thank you!