Considerations for Addressing Low-Volume Complex Surgical Procedures within the Military Health System

Dr. Paul Cordts
Deputy Assistant Director (DAD), Strategy, Plans, and Functional Integration (J-5)
Defense Health Agency

Presentation to:
Defense Health Board
April 23, 2018
But wait...there's more
54 Hospitals  360 Outpatient Clinics
Beneficiaries: 9.4M
In Uniform: 1.5M
Families: 2.4M
Retirees/Families: 5.4M
What about the other direction?
Health Systems Set Minimum Volume Standards

Prominent healthcare systems make clinical volume pledge:

• Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
• Johns Hopkins Medicine
• University of Michigan Hospital
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Minimum Annual Volume</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Surgeon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bariatric staple surgery</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esophagus cancer resection</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung cancer resection</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancreatic cancer resection</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rectal cancer resection</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carotid artery stenting</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex abdominal aortic aneurysm repair</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitral valve repair</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hip replacement</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee replacement</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) combined their respective national bariatric surgery accreditation programs into a single unified program to achieve one national accreditation standard for bariatric surgery centers, the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP).

MBSAQIP works to advance safe, high-quality care for bariatric surgical patients, through the accreditation of bariatric surgical centers. A bariatric surgical center achieves accreditation following a rigorous review process during which it proves that it can maintain certain physical resources, human resources, and standards of practice. All accredited centers report their outcomes to the MBSAQIP database.

**RESULTS:** Our study included 1,663 patients. Five high-volume hospitals, residing far from high-volume hospitals, in areas with the highest decreased odds of obtaining care at high-volume hospitals, may be a predictive tool to identify these patients.

**CONCLUSION:** Implementation of "Take the Volume Pledge" policies must consider the potential impact on limiting the number of uninsured patients with obesity. Policies need to be consistent, and studies show that the implementation of the "Take the Volume Pledge" by hospitals is associated with better outcomes.

Copyright © 2016 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
Surgical Intervention ...

... by whom ...

... and where?
Who

Considerations

1. Quality and Safety
   • Volume
   • Outcomes

2. Readiness Skills

Options

• Military
• VA
• Network
• Mixed
Where

Considerations
• Quality and Safety
  • Volume
  • Outcomes
• Facility Capability ("Failure to Rescue")
• Accreditation

Options
• MTF
• VA
• Network
Transparency
Patients should ask their surgeon how many times the surgeon and the hospital have done their specific surgical procedure in the last two years.

### How does Johns Hopkins Medicine perform?

**View number of:** Carotid Artery Stenting Surgeries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume Target</th>
<th>The Johns Hopkins Hospital</th>
<th>Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center</th>
<th>Academic Division Volume*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* meets volume target  ⚫ below volume target

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume Target</th>
<th>The Johns Hopkins Hospital</th>
<th>Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center</th>
<th>Academic Division Volume*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* meets volume target  ⚫ below volume target
Policy Considerations Summary

- Quality Care and Patient Safety
- Skills Maintenance of Military Surgical Teams
- Facility Infrastructure Requirements
- Transparency
Thank You