Overview of ASH
Quality Improvement Activities

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American Society of Hematology

• Non-profit professional society serving clinicians and scientists around the world who are working to conquer blood diseases
• Promote research, clinical care, education, training, and advocacy in hematology
• More than 15,000 members from nearly 100 countries
• Located in Washington, DC
Background

• Task Force co-chaired by Drs. Linda Burns and Adam Cuker recommended expansion of quality improvement efforts

• Rationale included wide-ranging impact of QI
  – Identifying and demonstrating improvement in gaps in care
  – Public accountability
  – Reimbursement
  – Maintenance of certification

• Approved 2013

Background

• Initial emphasis on practice guideline development (foundational to other QI activities)
  – Pocket guides (paper and electronic)
  – Performance Measures
  – Clinical Decision Support/Electronic Health Record integration
  – Webinars
STRUCTURE

Organization

• Committee on Quality
  – Monthly conference calls, biannual meetings
• Guideline Oversight Subcommittee
• Guideline Coordination Panels and Guideline Panels
• Quality Improvement Programs Staff
• Internal Collaboration with Practice, Government Relations, Education, Training
Guideline Development
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

- Based on comprehensive checklist from Guidelines 2.0 article by Holger Schünemann et al (December 2013)
- Detailed description of Conflict of Interest (COI) rules
- With experience, will be revisited and modified over time
- Procedures for partnerships, endorsement, adaptation to be explored in coming year

Prevention and Treatment of Venous Thromboembolism

- Overseen by Guideline Coordination Panel (GCP)
  - 10 Guideline Panels
  - Approximately 10 clinical questions per panel
  - Each panel will develop unique guideline publication
- Publication of first guidelines estimated late 2016, early 2017
- Online presence, maintenance planned
- Will serve as a platform for a full suite of quality projects, developed concurrently

Additional ASH Guideline Topics

- Immune Thrombocytopenia
  - Revision of 2011 Guideline
- Myeloproliferative Neoplasms
- Other topics under exploration
## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES: PARTNERSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Partner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workup of Acute Leukemia</td>
<td>College of American Pathologists (CAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Cell Product Requirements for Hemoglobinopathies and Myelodysplastic Syndrome</td>
<td>International Collaboration for Transfusion Therapies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Care Model for Management of Hemophilia</td>
<td>National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catastrophic Antiphospholipid Syndrome (CAPS)</td>
<td>RARE-Bestpractices</td>
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<td>White Blood Cell Growth Factors</td>
<td>ASCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ventilation/Perfusion Imaging in Pulmonary Embolism</td>
<td>Society of Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging (SNMMI)</td>
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QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION)

QI Resources and Services

- Many ASH QI resources already available
- Will ramp up with new ASH guidelines
Pocket Guides

- Popular guideline summaries developed by ASH
- 9 current guides
  - SCD: Acute
  - SCD: HU/Transfusion
  - Thrombocytopenia in Pregnancy
  - RBC Transfusion
  - von Willebrand
  - SCD: Chronic
  - ITP
  - HIT
  - Antithrombotic Management
- App

Special Symposium on Quality

- Committee-sponsored session at ASH Annual Meeting
- Sessions are well attended, lively Q&A
- 2014: Rising Cost of Medical Care
- 2015: Promise and Pitfalls of Quality Measures and Pay-for-Performance
Choosing Wisely

- Overseen by ASH Choosing Wisely Task Force
- ABIM Foundation activity on resource stewardship
- Professional societies list 5 tests and procedures that may be unnecessary and in some instances can cause harm
- ASH has developed 2 lists (2013 & 2014)
- Slide set available online with overview of items and their underlying evidence
Choosing Wisely: Planned Activities

- Regular maintenance/updating of existing items
- New list of items relevant to hematologists drawn from the Choosing Wisely lists of other disciplines
  - Opportunity to draw and benefit from the QI efforts of other

Consult a Colleague

- Initiated in 2007
- Coordinates consultation between ASH members and volunteer experts
- Response within 2 business days
- 604 requests in 2014 (increases every year)
- Includes HCT experts
- Exploring opportunities for growth
Engagement in National Quality Enterprise

- Context: Payment, Accountability, Quality
- HHS Goal
  - 30% of Medicare fee-for-service payments tied to quality or value through alternative payment models by 2016, and 50% by 2018
- MACRA (SGR/Medicare pay reform)
  - Financial bonuses/penalties tied to measurement, funding for measure development

Engagement in National Quality Enterprise

- Multiple National Entities
  - HHS/CMS
  - NQF
  - PCPI
  - NQMC
  - NCQA
  - Other Medical Societies
Engagement in National Quality Enterprise

- **Quality Measure Development**
  - External Partnerships (e.g. with American College of Emergency Physicians)
  - Hematology PQRS Measures
    - Myelodysplastic Syndrome and Acute Leukemias
      - Baseline cytogenetic testing performed on bone marrow
      - Documentation of baseline iron stores in patients receiving erythropoietin therapy
    - Multiple Myeloma
      - Treatment with bisphosphonates
    - Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
      - Baseline flow cytometry
  - Development in tandem with practice guideline development
  - Some priority principles (care transitions, outcomes measurement) will not be guideline-based

LONG TERM VISION
Long Term Vision

• ~20 “owned” guidelines, actively maintained with additional affiliated guidelines
  – Particular focus on core hematology areas including rare disorders unique to hematology
• Robust Dissemination/Implementation plans for each guideline
  – e.g. pocket guides, quality measures, PIMs
• Emerging domains
  – e.g. Health Information Technology tools and services; Big Data/Registries
• Encourage research on quality-related ASH products and services to build evidence base for QI
• Coordination with public and private quality initiatives at all stages of the quality process

Closing

• ASH is involved in a number of QI efforts through a variety of mechanisms (internal, partnerships)
• ASH is committed to engaging in additional and emerging QI efforts (such as this meeting)
• Collaboration and coordination of QI efforts is essential
DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS