



705 Second Avenue, Suite 703
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May 21st, 2014

We are contacting you today as representatives of the Dr. Robert Bree Collaborative about joining the Spine Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program (SCOAP). The Bree Collaborative – which is legislatively charged with identifying and recommending best practice approaches to health care delivery – has strongly recommended participation in Spine SCOAP as a community standard.

Spine SCOAP is a clinician-led, collaborative, and non-regulatory health care quality improvement program that uses clinical data to improve outcomes for patients having spine surgery in Washington State. Spine SCOAP's main goal is to improve quality by reducing variation in outcomes and process of care by encouraging hospitals to voluntarily submit data to a regional database. SCOAP was developed by physicians, is housed within the Foundation for Health Care Quality, and is leading the country by focusing on functional outcomes. Read more about the program here, www.scoap.org.

In the words of the Medical Director at a major health plan, *"Without any outcomes, you don't have a product."* Purchasers and health plans have started to preferentially send patients to hospitals demonstrating a commitment to quality improvement and comparison to other hospitals in the community. Quality improvement programs also have valuable spillover effects such as reduced staff turnover and increased patient satisfaction.

A surgeon at one participating hospital summarizes the benefits as follows:

"Just the exercise of seeing how we are performing in various metrics against the community benchmark is an effective tool in improving quality. Nobody wants to be an outlier in a registry. It has been clearly demonstrated in the past with SCOAP when participating general surgeons shared information on negative appendectomy and imaging. After several quarters of just sharing the data, without any specific intervention, rates of negative appendectomy were decreased across the board."



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Ginny Weir, Bree Collaborative Program Director, will be contacting your office on our behalf to set up a call with you to discuss Spine SCOAP, how to participate in this quality improvement program, and encourage your hospital's participation as an observer in the upcoming SCOAP Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 4th at the SeaTac Hilton.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Marchand".

Greg Marchand
Director of Benefits Policy and
Strategy
The Boeing Company

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Lessler".

Daniel S. Lessler, MD, MHA
Chief Medical Officer
Washington State Health Care
Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal H. Shonnard".

Neal H. Shonnard, MD
Spine SCOAP Medical Director
Foundation for Health Care
Quality

Cc: Ginny Weir, Bree Collaborative Program Director
Vickie Kolios-Morris, SCOAP Program Director

**Attachment: List of Hospitals that Do and Do Not Participate in Spine SCOAP
As of April 2014**

Participating	Not Participating
Capital Medical Center	Deaconess Hospital
Central Washington Hospital	Harrison Memorial Hospital
Evergreen Hospital Medical Center	Highline Medical Center
Harborview Medical Center	Island Hospital
MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital	Kadlec Regional Medical Center
Northwest Hospital	Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
PeaceHealth Saint Joseph Hospital	Overlake Hospital Medical Center
PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center	Providence Holy Family Hospital
Providence Regional Medical Center Everett	Providence Saint Mary Hospital
Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center	Providence Saint Peter Hospital
Saint Francis Hospital	Swedish Medical Center - Edmonds
Saint Joseph Medical Center	Valley Hospital - Spokane
Skagit Valley Hospital	Virginia Mason Medical Center
Swedish Medical Center - First Hill/Ballard	Yakima Regional Medical and Cardiac Center
Swedish Medical Center - Cherry Hill	Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital
Swedish Medical Center - Issaquah	
Tacoma General Allenmore Hospital	
University of Washington Medical Center	
Valley Medical Center	

NOTE: This table does not include hospitals that perform less than 100 spine surgeries annually according to 2012 Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS) data.