

## **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Program Overview**

The ClearFlow Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Program is similar to other continuous quality programs that are currently in place in many hospitals around the world. Examples of this include programs to reduce Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) and Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI). The basic methodology behind the development of quality improvement programs has been well established for many years now.

Four steps can be identified when implementing the CQI:

### **Analysis**

- Problem Analysis Root Cause
- Benchmark
- Calculate Retained Blood Syndrome (RBS) Intervention Rates and Cost

### **Planning**

- Implementation planning
- Development of best practice protocols and training
- Integration into the hospitals quality system

### **Action**

- Introduce RBS prevention protocols
- Publish RBS rates
- Confirm proficiency levels

### **Reporting**

- Establish new RBS rate
- Analyze and review data
- Implement any corrective action

## **Purpose of the CQI Program**

To allow a hospital to develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) based on RBS postoperative outcomes e.g.

### **Primary**

Tamponade, Bloody Pleural and Pericardial Effusions, Fibrothorax

### **Secondary**

Post Operative A-Fib

The CQI program has been designed to:

1. To provide a hospital with a clearly defined clinical problem (RBS) within a defined group of adult cardiothoracic patients and a standard means to measure base RBS Intervention rates
2. A protocolled and defined way of introducing a clinical solution e.g. standardization of chest tube management using the PleuraFlow<sup>®</sup> Active Clearance Technology<sup>®</sup> System
3. To provide a clearly defined process for establishing movements in RBS rates
4. With the ability of establishing the reduction in RBS cost savings can be calculated

## **Benefits of the CQI Program**

### **Benefits to the Hospital**

1. Improvement in patient outcomes and a tangible KPI that will potentially improve program rankings
2. Improvements in Pay for Performance KPIs could assist the hospital avoid costly penalties
3. Improvement in patient outcomes translates directly into cost savings

## **Benefits to Patients**

1. Reduced risk of postoperative complications including:
  - a. Reduction of Hospital and ICU LOS
  - b. Reduced risk of developing an RBS complication
  - c. Reduced risk of 30 day readmission
  - d. Reduced risk of postoperative infection
  - e. Less pain due to reduction in size of chest tube