

## **Introduction**

St Thomas' is a busy Inner London teaching hospital that offers a full range of local hospital and community services for people in Lambeth and Southwark, as well as specialist care for patients from further afield. Across the trust we provide elective and emergency services for all surgical subspecialties except major trauma.

Due to the diversity of surgical services within the trust it was only natural for us to be involved in PQIP, we were an early adopter and over the last two years have been one of PQIP's top recruiting sites.

One of the key drivers to our success has been collaborative working between surgical teams, enhanced recovery team, research nursing team and The Proactive care of Older People undergoing Surgery (POPS) team.

The POPS team is a geriatrician-led multidisciplinary team that employs proactive comprehensive geriatric assessment and optimisation to both emergency and elective patients across all surgical subspecialties within the trust and the majority of patients recruited to PQIP at our centre are through the POPS preoperative assessment clinic.

## **Factors contributing to successful recruitment:**

- Dedicated research nurse team who identify patients suitable for recruitment to PQIP through electronic records
- Recruitment by POPS clinical nurse specialists at POPS pre-assessment clinic
- Engagement of POPS clinicians in recruiting patients at POPS pre-assessment clinic
- Education and empowerment of training medical staff e.g. registrars to be involved in recruitment
- Close collaborative working between research nursing team, POPS team and enhanced recovery pathway team

## **Planning future improvement:**

- A group looking at streamlining enhanced recovery pathway have implemented ERP pathway boards on the wards, a nurse led education programme, ERP refresher days and booklets provided to new members of staff as part of an induction pack.
- We are currently enrolling patients into a prospective exercise pre-habilitation trial (PRE-EMPT) to look at respiratory and functional interventions perioperatively which will be investigated through plan-do-study-act methodology.
- We are currently in the process of writing a business case to fund an additional enhanced recovery nurse to complement the process.

## **Ongoing challenges:**

One of our biggest ongoing challenges is encouraging clinician involvement despite a high turnover of rotating staff. The POPS team continues to enforce the role of clinicians and nurses in national audit and research and complements this by dedicated teaching sessions for training medical staff and clinical nurse specialists. This empowerment of all staff within the team to be involved in recruitment has undoubtedly led to our high recruitment figures. Communication and collaboration have proved to be important tools not only in celebrating our successes in recruitment but also to stimulate discussion about care processes, the quality of care we give and how large sources of data like PQIP can lead to improvements and innovation for our patients.